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AND

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MARRIAGES.

At Raub, on the 16th March, by the Rev. F. Haines, of St. Mary's, Kuala Lumpur, CHARLES HENRY PAUL, Engineer to the Pahang Corporation, youngest son of William PAUL of Brooklyn, New York, to ALICE SARAH (DOLLY, eldest daughter of William BRIBBY, Manager, Raub Gold Mining Company, Raub, Pahang, Malay Peninsular.)

At the Cathedral, Shanghai, on the 25th March, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., assisted by the Rev. C. J. F. Symons, B.A., ARTHUR T. KIMBER, F.R.C.S. ED.; C. M. S. Hospital, Hanchow, to ALICE, second daughter of Richard HUNT, Esq., Hampstead.

DEATHS.

At the Imperial Bank of China, Peking, on Sunday, 19th March, MILLICENT EDITH, the dearly beloved wife of Matthew Henry HOUSTON.

At Tokyo, on the 23rd March, Mrs. T. B. GLOVER, aged 49 years.

At Yokohama, on the 24th March, NICHOLAS JOAO DA LUZ.

On the 2nd April, at the Peak Hospital, LOUIS CHARLES AIREY, of Messrs. Lane, Crawford & Co. aged 50.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The English mail of the 3rd March arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Ballaarat*, on the 31st March (28 days); and the German mail of the 6th March arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Prinz Heinrich*, on the 4th April (29 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK

Prince and Princess Henry of Prussia are expected at Shanghai on the 8th April and will make a trip up-country in a house-boat.

Mr. F. A. Aglen, Commissioner of Customs, who has lately returned from leave, will open the new treaty port of Nanking.—*N. C. Daily News*.

A special telegram to the *N. C. Daily News*, dated Yunnan, 28th March, states that Messrs. Davies, Ryder, Watts, and Jones have arrived at Yunnanfu, and proceed to meet Messrs. Pottinger and Hunter near Pichieh.

The *China Gazette* translates from the *Universal Gazette* a statement to the effect that the Hupeh Cloth Mill has borrowed 300,000 taels from the Japanese Government to assist the finances of the mill, and to enable an increase to be made in the plant.

Three German travellers having been mobbed near Ichoufu, in Southern Shantung, the Germans have sent a punitive expedition to the locality, which is some distance from the coast. The expedition is said to have instructions to burn two villages.

The Deutsche Vereinigung, the German institution on the lines of the China Association and the American Association of China, is being constituted, the provisional committee being Messrs. C. Brodersen, H. Heyn, A. Korff, M. Rohde, and M. Slevogt.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The *N. C. Daily News* publishes the following special telegram dated Peking, 24th March:—Secret instructions, by command of the Empress Dowager, were sent yesterday and on the 22nd instant to the Viceroys and Governors of maritime provinces, to resist by force any landing of foreign armed parties of men along the coast and holding said officials responsible for failure to obey.

We are informed that the local branch of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China yesterday received telegraphic advice from the London Office intimating that at the approaching meeting of shareholders the Directors will recommend a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum free of income tax for the past half year, making 10 per cent. per annum for the whole year, add £50,000 to the reserve fund, which will then stand at £500,000, and carry forward £14,000 undivided profit.

The British Marine Guards from Peking and Tientsin left by the 5 p.m. train on Wednesday, 22nd March, a large number of friends bidding them farewell at the station. The band was in attendance. As far as the local guard is concerned, says the *Peking and Tientsin Times*, "we can testify to the men having conducted themselves admirably throughout, and if duty calls them this way again there will be many friends to give their genial commanding officer, Lieut. Wray, a very cordial welcome."

The American full-rigged ship *Sachem*, laden with kerosene oil, arrived at Shanghai on the 24th March after an eventful voyage from the States. Before reaching Hongkong her master, Capt. Schultze, died of Bright's disease, and she had to ship a first mate in Hongkong when her former first mate took command. When in the Formosa Channel she got into a terrible thunderstorm, during which her foremast was struck by lightning, while the mate was knocked down by the lightning and so badly hurt that it was thought for several hours he was dead. But happily he was finally brought round and is now all right.—*China Gazette*.

It will be learnt with regret that Mr. E. E. Alford has been obliged to resign the Chairmanship of the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce, having been ordered by his medical adviser to give up all work for the present. He leaves for home by the Canadian Mail on the 8th inst.—*N. C. Daily News*.

For some days now, says the *Bangkok Times*, it has been an open secret that M. Donner would visit Siam for the purpose of returning the visit recently paid him by Phya Sri-Sahadhep, conveying the assurance of the King of Siam's consideration and good will. It is now definitely known that the Governor General will reach Bangkok on the 7th April, and the best hopes are entertained on all sides as to the mutual benefit which will accrue to French Indo-China and Siam by this happy interchange of courtesies.

After a week's fighting, the American forces in Luzon have advanced as far as Malolos, formerly the insurgent capital. Malolos itself was found practically deserted, the main body of the insurgents having withdrawn, leaving only a guard to fire the town on the approach of the Americans, which was done. The American loss in the week's operations was about four hundred in killed and wounded, Brigadier General Egbert being amongst those killed. The McKinley Commissioners have since issued a proclamation outlining the United States attitude and requirements, and the natives are said to be returning to their homes daily.

A number of the local gentry having petitioned the Shanghai magistrate, this official and the magistrate of the new Chinese Bund issued on the 25th March a joint proclamation forbidding natives living in the Bund district from insuring their property in the future, and threatening to punish all who should disobey the proclamation. The excuse appears to be that natives who insure their property are apt to be careless with fire, knowing that they will be reimbursed by the insurance companies in case of a conflagration, and further that owing to the hard times now people are apt to commit arson for the sake of their insurances. Finally, another reason for the prohibition is that the Chinese authorities would not then be able to prevent the foreign fire brigades from coming to the Chinese Bund to put out fires.—*N. C. Daily News*.

In consequence of threatened disturbances in the Kowloon Extension, H.E. the Governor went to Canton on Sunday, 2nd April, to call upon the Viceroy with reference to the situation. The visit is generally regarded unfavourably by the European communities of Canton and Hongkong as derogatory to the Governor's position and the national dignity. The Viceroy promised to give instructions to the Commandant of Kowloon city to afford protection to the British officers engaged in surveying, etc. On Tuesday, the 4th, however, the villagers of Tai-pu stoned the Captain Superintendent of Police and his Sikh guard, compelling them to retreat, and burnt a match shed which was being erected for a police station. Upon news of this outrage being received three hundred men of the Welch Fusiliers were sent to the place. The villagers having expressed their contrition, the troops were withdrawn the same day.

DISTURBANCES IN THE KOWLOON CONCESSION, AND GOVERNMENTAL MISTAKES.

(Daily Press, 6th April.)

The recent course of events in connection with the Kowloon extension is not calculated to elevate the Government in the estimation of the public, as regards either dignity or common sense. It was generally understood that the new territory was to be left severely alone until it was formally taken over and full and complete control could be exercised. This determination, however, has been departed from and latterly there has been activity in surveying and in the erection of quarters for the police and other officials, the Government relying on the Chinese authorities to suppress any opposition that might arise and to maintain order. As might have been foreseen, the Chinese authorities proved a broken reed in the matter. We are not concerned to offer any excuse for the mandarins, but, knowing what they are and the limited nature of the resources at their disposal, it would have been more reasonable as well as more dignified if the Government had taken up "the white man's burden" itself and not tried to shift it on to the shoulders of the Commandant of Kowloon city. Having, however, endeavoured to evade its responsibilities, or to anticipate its rights—the matter may be looked at from either point of view—the Government was unpleasantly disturbed by rumours of approaching trouble. Thereupon the Governor solicits an interview with the Viceroy, and, his request having been acceded to, he proceeds post haste to Canton, greatly to the indignation of the English community there, who seem to have considered the visit derogatory to the national dignity. For our own part we do not see why the Governor of a British colony should not call upon a Chinese Viceroy if the business in hand is of sufficient importance to warrant such a proceeding, but the preferment of a request that a small guard might be sent from Kowloon city is business that might very well have been conducted through the medium of the Consul. Almost immediately upon the Governor's return to the colony the anticipated trouble breaks out, the Captain Superintendent of Police and his Sikh guard being stoned at the village of Taipu and compelled to beat a retreat. Upon news of this outrage being received the Government seems to have lost its head completely, for before sending troops to restore order it committed the extraordinary absurdity of requesting the co-operation of the Mandarin of Kowloon City, for which purpose that worthy was dragged from his bed at three o'clock in the morning, a proceeding which, however uncomfortable it may have been at the moment, would no doubt greatly minister to the Mandarin's sense of his own importance and his contempt for the fanqui. It would have been better if the Government had refrained from taking any action in the new territory until the pending negotiations were completed, but having commenced operations and come in conflict with the natives no time ought now to be lost in formally assuming full jurisdiction.

On account of the Italian demand for the cession of Sanmun Bay and in anticipation of its possibly giving rise to hostilities, the Viceroy of Canton has ordered an official named Chea Lai Sheung to make a special inspection of the fortifications of Bocca Tigris and to take the necessary measures for strengthening them. Large numbers of troops are also said to be in readiness to proceed to the forts in case of emergency.

GERMANY'S APPLICATION OF THE GUNBOAT POLICY.

(Daily Press, 4th April.)

Germany's promptitude in taking measures to inflict punishment for the attack made upon German subjects at Ichoufu, in Southern Shantung, affords an example which might with advantage be followed in all similar cases. Three Germans, armed only with revolvers, were attacked twenty-five miles from Ichoufu by over a hundred Chinese armed with guns and gingals. Though so feebly armed they repulsed their assailants, killing three and fatally wounding three more, and finally reached Ichoufu in safety. Immediately upon news of the affair reaching the German authorities a force is landed at Yichao, the nearest convenient port, and commences its march to the scene of the disturbance. How different this from the conduct of Great Britain at the time of the Kucheng massacre, for instance, not to mention the numerous other outrages and murders to which British subjects have been subjected. The active enforcement of the gunboat policy has been repeatedly urged, but the Government has been reluctant to sanction it, formerly for one reason and latterly for another. The late Sir JOHN DAVIS, when Governor of Hongkong and Superintendent of Trade, sent an expedition up the Canton River, which, after capturing the Bogue forts, dropped anchor off the city and threatened to bombard it if the demands made for satisfaction for an outrage committed upon British subjects were not complied with. The satisfaction was accorded, nominally at all events. Some months afterwards another disturbance arose, and Sir JOHN DAVIS meditated another military expedition and induced Major-General D'AGUILAR to write to Ceylon for reinforcements. But Sir JOHN GREY, who in the meantime had succeeded Lord PALMERSTON at the Foreign Office, would have none of it. Referring to the previous expedition he wrote:—"Although the late operations were attended with immediate success, the risk of a second attempt of the same kind would far overbalance any advantage to be derived from such a step. If the conduct of the Chinese authorities should unfortunately render another appeal to arms inevitable, it will be necessary that it should be made after due preparation and with the employment of such an amount of force as may afford just grounds for expecting that the objects which may be purposed by such a measure will be effectually accomplished without unnecessary loss." The idea that the risk attending such expeditions would overbalance any advantage to be gained has governed the British Government up to quite recent times, though possibly it may have been discarded since Japan exposed the weakness of China and since Germany showed by her seizure of Kiaochow with how little risk any portion of China's territory could be occupied. In addition to the supposed risk involved another consideration afterwards came into play when other Powers began to evince a disposition to establish themselves in China. It was then feared that any occupation of Chinese territory by Great Britain, whether such occupation was intended to be temporary or permanent, would set the ball a-rolling and encourage the other Powers to carve out slices for themselves. It was this idea which for some years delayed the Kowloon extension, even when the Kucheng massacre gave such a favourable opportunity

for demanding satisfaction in the shape of territorial concessions. But that idea, too, must be discarded now, for other Powers have not waited for Great Britain to set the example, but have fallen to of their own accord. The course of events seems, therefore, to have completely dissipated the objections formerly entertained to the gunboat policy, and a frank adoption and firm execution of that policy seems to offer the best immediately available security for foreign life and property in China.

CONTENTIOUS SUBJECTS AT THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEETING.

(Daily Press, 7th April.)

A great number of important subjects are touched upon in the annual report of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce. As the Chairman, Mr. R. M. GRAY, remarked at the general meeting held on Wednesday, the past year "has been a very momentous one in the life of this colony," and the work thrown upon the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce has been correspondingly arduous. The publication of the minutes of the Committee's monthly meetings and of the correspondence has, however, kept the community informed of the progress of events as they transpired, and as a result there were no new questions opened up at the annual meeting, and of the old ones only two can be said to be of a contentious character, one of which has already been settled, while the other is, we hope, in a fair way of being so. These questions are the terms for which Crown leases are granted and the relations of the Chinese Customs to the colony. The Secretary of State's decision that in future no Crown leases shall be granted for longer terms than ninety-nine years is apparently irrevocable, and the subject therefore possesses now little more than an academic interest. It is a question of collectivism versus individualism: shall the profit from the increasing value of land go exclusively into the pockets of the landowners, or shall the community be entitled to share therein by a periodical readjustment of the amount of Crown rent payable? Mr. CHAMBERLAIN has decided that the community is entitled to share in the unearned increment, but as the readjustment of the Crown rent is only to take place at intervals of seventy-five or ninety-nine years no living landowner will be very severely hit. All the land at the Peak is held on seventy-five years leases, and the question whether its present selling value would have been appreciably greater had the leases been granted for nine hundred and ninety-nine years.

The other contentious subject touched upon at Wednesday's meeting was that of the Kowloon Customs, concerning which the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD addressed the Chamber. The hon. gentleman apparently has not studied the question very closely, or he could not have made the statement that "the 1886 'arrangement' permits a Chinese Customs Office in Hongkong," because the 1886 "arrangement"—it by that term is meant the memorandum signed after the discussion by Sir JAMES RUSSELL, Sir ROBERT HART, SUI TAO TAI, and Mr. BYRON BRENNAN—contains no such permission. Some of Mr. WHITEHEAD's other statements of fact might also be controverted; but what is of chief importance in his speech is the policy he recommends for the future. The hon. gentleman says that "All reasons for having the 'Imperial Chinese Customs in and about 'Hongkong waters should be abolished,"

"at the earliest date possible," and that "The Chinese Government should be required to collect its Customs duties as all other countries do in their own ports." Beneath these suggestions there lurk two dangers, with both of which the colony has on previous occasions been threatened. If the principle be admitted that China is to be treated as other Powers are treated we must admit her right to maintain a Consul in Hongkong, which would be intolerable. In the advertisements of vessels proceeding to America the following notice is given:—"Consular invoices to accompany cargo destined to points beyond San Francisco in the United States should be sent to the Company's offices, addressed to the Collector of Customs, San Francisco." Would such an announcement be tolerable in the case of China? Yet Mr. WHITEHEAD maintains that China, in the matter of the collection of her Customs duty, is to be treated like any other Powers, and therefore like the United States. If it were attempted to carry his proposal into effect, however, the hon. gentleman, we are sure, would be one of the first to object. China cannot be accorded the same treatment as other Powers; the circumstances are peculiar and must be dealt with accordingly.

Other Powers require vessels arriving from abroad to enter at a port of foreign entry, and China in the early days of Hongkong endeavoured to enforce the same rule with regard to junk arrivals from this colony; the treaty ports were to be considered the ports of foreign entry and junks from Hongkong were to be allowed to enter only at those ports. That, however, did not suit Hongkong, which claimed to be allowed to send junks to any point on the coast, whether there was a Custom-house there or not. This it was which led to the collection of Customs duties at points immediately contiguous to the colony in Chinese waters. That system, while conducted by the Native Customs, gave rise to well founded complaints, which led to the transfer of the administration to the Foreign Customs, since when there have been no complaints on the part of the Chinese community engaged in legitimate trade. Mr. WHITEHEAD, however, says that "All reasons for having the Imperial Customs in and about Hongkong waters should be abolished at the earliest date possible." The hon. gentleman surely cannot mean that we are to give up the right to trade with the Chinese coast in general and that junks should be compelled to resort only to specified ports of foreign entry! But it is the right claimed by Hongkong that junks may proceed from this colony to any part of the coast of China that constitutes the reason for having the Imperial Chinese Customs about Hongkong waters (not in Hongkong waters), and Mr. WHITEHEAD says the reasons for having the Customs there should be abolished.

Perhaps some means less offensive to the sentiment of the Hongkong community than the present means may be devised to prevent the defrauding of the Chinese revenue. With regard to opium such a means has already been suggested by the Chamber of Commerce. Opium, however, is not the only article on which China imposes Customs duties, though it is the article that lends itself most readily to smuggling. Wherever two countries have a common frontier and dissimilar fiscal systems there is always more or less friction, and it can hardly be anticipated that such friction will be altogether obviated in the case of Hongkong and the Chinese province of Kwangtung, but to reduce it to a mini-

mum should be the aim of all parties. There are two points, however, that cannot be lost sight of in attempting a solution of the problem. In the first place, China cannot be, as Mr. WHITEHEAD suggests, treated as other Powers are treated; she must, from the nature of the case and her own inherent defects, be subjected to special and extraordinary treatment; and, in the second place, there is not the least prospect of the British Government helping colonial agitators to obtain an enforcement of the "open door" policy for the smuggling trade.

ACCLIMATISATION OF EUROPEANS IN THE TROPICS.

(Daily Press, 5th April.)

The question of the acclimatisation of Europeans in the tropics is touched upon by Dr. J. J. MACDONALD in his report on the health of Wuchow for the fourteen months ended 30th September, 1898. Suitable houses have not yet been built at Wuchow for the accommodation of the European residents, who are consequently "temporarily quartered in temples, boats, wooden but, gospel halls, shops, and native houses in almost every part of the town and neighbourhood." These several classes of residences are reported upon in detail by Dr. MACDONALD and condemned, and he goes on to say:—"Opinion upon the question of the possibility of the acclimatisation of European in tropical countries, which has recently received some attention in England has been unfavourably influenced, owing, partly, to the mistakes which have been made in the choice of localities and residences. For instance, decent people, reared in healthy homes, are so infatuated as to attempt to live in the tropics, in Wuchow, in such slums as nothing, possibly, could induce them to reside in at home. Probably the friends of those who have returned to their native land shattered in health will mistakenly attribute to the tropical climate evils which are largely the result of living in slums. Europeans can never be expected to acclimatise either on malarial plains or in Oriental slums in the tropics. I believe, however, that there are large tracts within the tropics, where Europeans might readily acclimatise—e.g., the mountainous country in Kwangtung and Kwangsi, in the vicinity of the noble West River. Whilst our people in the town are, I am afraid, absorbing the seeds of fell diseases, which are destined to entail a long train of subsequent troubles, but a couple of bowshots from the city, just across the Cassia River, the balmy breezes of the hill country invite them to live in a pure and healthy air, where children might have rosy cheeks the whole year round. Granted houses on the hilltops, and I am confident that Europeans might enjoy robust health at Wuchow." The hills referred to are of moderate elevation, about 400 feet. On such sites no doubt Europeans might with the exercise of reasonable care lead a healthy existence, and possibly rear healthy children, but the fact that great precautions have to be taken is in itself an argument against the possibility of the genuine acclimatisation of the European race in tropical countries. Notwithstanding the opinion of such an eminent authority as Dr. MANSON, to whose deliverance upon this subject attention was recently called in this column, it seems to us that the acclimatisation of Europeans in the tropics, understanding those terms in a general sense, is out of the question. In countries where a race is really acclimatised the in-

dividual members of the race ought to be able to lead healthy lives without making health the primary subject of their thoughts, whereas Europeans in the tropics can maintain their health only at the cost of constant watchfulness. But while the European can never, as we believe, thrive so well in the tropics as in his own climate, no doubt tropical locations have acquired in some cases a worse reputation than they deserve, owing to unfavourable conditions not in any way connected with climate and which are capable of removal or amelioration. At Wuchow, for instance, the Europeans are not only unfortunate in having to live in unsuitable residences, but also in respect of their water supply. In the opinion of the natives, Dr. MACDONALD tells us, the water of the "Icy Well" is the best in Wuchow. This is the well from which the British Consul's and the Commissioner's supply is drawn; but "mineral matter," sand, vegetable products, cotton fibres, "woody fibre, animal products, portions of dead insects, bacteria, bacillus ulna, B. subtilis, oscillatoria autumnalis, siphonacea, confervacea, diatomacea, stauroneis acuta, frustulia saxonica, ciliata, rotifera, etc., show that the condition of this famous well is in character like a diluted pond water." The well is not cement lined, and within a few yards passes a brook, the effluent of paddy-fields cultivated with sewage, which has opportunity of finding access to the well, and, furthermore, "the water which fills its deep-seated spring has percolated through the soil of a hill which is used as a burying ground." We should think the Consul and Commissioner would do well to change the source of their supply.

THE WATER SUPPLY QUESTION.

(Daily Press, 4th April.)

The present scarcity of water may be a suitable time to direct attention to a few points in connection with the Government's policy in connection with the water service. In the first place the position in which the colony now finds itself should dispose once for all of the suggestion that has on one or two occasions been advanced for the closing of the Pokfulam reservoir. In the second place the position demonstrates the necessity for prudent economy in meting out the supply. Seeing that the growth of the population is likely to outstrip any possible increase in the storage of water, and that in seasons of prolonged drought the colony will always be exposed to scarcity, would it not be better to adopt the intermittent system as soon as the rainy season is over and when there is no longer any probability of the reservoirs overflowing. We are aware that there are weighty technical objections to the intermittent system, but seeing that it has perforce to be resorted to towards the close of the dry season, would it not be better to adopt it earlier in a less aggravated form? If from the month of November, say, the supply were turned on for the whole colony for twelve hours only out of the twenty-four, the economy effected would be greater and the resulting inconvenience less than when at a later period it is turned on in the city only for periods varying from four hours to one hour according to locality. But there is one favoured locality where the pinch of scarcity is not to be allowed to make itself felt. We allude to the Peak. Why this favouritism? The argument that the Peak residents are too intelligent to waste the water will not serve, for the same argument would apply with equal force to the residents of Seymour Road, Robinson Road, and the Peak Road.

We have heard it remarked that the consumption of water at the Peak is insignificant in comparison with the total consumption of the whole colony, but we fail to see what bearing that can have on the question, for the same remark might with equal force be applied to any other particular group of houses. If the colony is put on short allowance of water, we cannot see any reason why the Peakites should be treated differently from any other section of the population.

SHANGHAI AND THE PENNY POSTAGE SCHEME.

(Daily Press, 4th April.)

The N. C. Daily News thinks that Hongkong ought to bear the cost of giving Shanghai the benefit of over-sea penny postage. The charge for a letter from Shanghai to England is ten cents per half-ounce, and from Hongkong four cents. It has occurred to some Shanghai residents, therefore, to post their letters under cover to Hongkong by the Chinese Post Office at a charge of two cents and to have them re-posted here at a charge of four cents, making in all six cents, instead of ten cents, as would be the case were the letters posted from Shanghai direct. "A Taxed Britisher" writes to the N. C. Daily News complaining that Captain HASTINGS will not lend himself to this little dodge, and he encloses the following note which he received from that official:—"Doubtless the 10 cents rate is evaded largely by the method you have adopted—sending letters under cover into the colony—but to expect the officer in charge of the Post Office to connive at and actively assist such evasion you must perceive is improper. Your letters have been taxed." The N. C. Daily News says this is "the most preposterous thing we have ever read." It seems to us preposterous that Shanghai should expect Hongkong to pay for the carriage of its correspondence. The four-cent rate is not a paying rate, and the loss will have to be made good by the Hongkong taxpayers. If Shanghai wants four-cents postage or six-cents postage, no doubt it would be able to arrange the matter if it were prepared to include a vote for the service in its municipal budget, but to expect to get the service at the expense of Hongkong is unconscionable. It is rather presumptuous, too, for any Shanghai resident to dub himself "A Taxed Britisher," seeing that the Shanghai residents escape all charges for Imperial burdens, whereas we in Hongkong have to pay a heavy military contribution.

DR. DOBERCK AND THE MANILA OBSERVATORY.

(Daily Press, 5th April.)

The Government is to be congratulated on the prompt action it has taken with reference to Dr. DOBERCK's unjustifiable attack on the Manila Observatory. In consequence of representations made by Dr. DOBERCK to the Weather Bureau of the United States the sending of typhoon warnings from the Manila Observatory to places outside the Philippines was officially interdicted. Upon this coming to the notice of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce representations were made to the Government, and the Chamber expressed the feeling of the community when it said that the Manila warnings had been found useful and that their discontinuance would be viewed with regret. The outcome will be seen in the correspondence published

in another column. The Government states that Dr. DOBERCK's action was unauthorised and that a renewal of the Manila storm warnings has been requested. A disagreeable incident is thus closed, and it is to be hoped there may be no repetition of such conduct on the part of the Director of the Hongkong Observatory.

THE KOW LOON EXTENSION.

INFLAMMATORY PLACARDS POSTED

H.E. THE GOVERNOR MAKES REPRESENTATIONS TO THE VICEROY.

4th April.

Some commotion was caused in the city on Saturday night and Sunday by the circulation of a rumour that serious trouble was brewing in the Kowloon hinterland, and that in consequence two or three gunboats and a portion of the Hongkong regiment were kept in readiness for coping with any disturbance which might take place.

Last week Government officials were busily engaged in the new territory surveying main roads and arranging for matshed accommodation for the police, etc. On Saturday morning they found that the district in which they were then engaged had been placarded, the inhabitants being called upon to prevent the British from doing this, that, and the other, and later in the day some of the inhabitants seemed disposed to be awkward, for they assembled about the officials and asked them to desist or there would be trouble. The matter was at once reported to Hongkong and H.E. the Governor telegraphed to the Viceroy at Canton asking for an audience. Late on Saturday night an answer came from the Viceroy stating that he would be pleased to see His Excellency the next day.

Accordingly on Sunday morning at five o'clock His Excellency and the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart and staff got aboard the t.b.d. *Fame*, and in four hours and a half—a record trip—reached Canton. The Viceroy had made every preparation for the reception of His Excellency, the streets being lined with troops. In replying to His Excellency's representations, the Viceroy promised to do what he could to discover the parties responsible for the inflammatory placard and to instruct the military commander at Kowloon city to place troops at the disposal of the British officials for their protection.

The *Fame* returned to Hongkong at ten o'clock on Sunday night.

THE HON. F. H. MAY AND PARTY STONED.

INFURIATED VILLAGERS BURN THE POLICE MAT-SHED.

DEPARTURE OF A PUNITIVE FORCE.

5th April.

Considerable commotion was caused in Government circles on Monday night by the arrival of a messenger from Captain-Superintendent May, who had gone to Taipo, a village near Mirs Bay, bringing word that a serious disturbance had taken place and asking for relief. Accordingly about three o'clock yesterday morning the military commander at Kowloon City was pulled out of his bed and, accompanied by about a dozen "Braves," taken on board the torpedo-boat destroyer *Fame*, on which some 300 men of the Welsh Regiment had already embarked. At four o'clock the *Fame* started full speed for Mirs Bay, the *Whiting* following shortly afterwards. At the same time steps were at once taken to get everything in readiness for sending other war vessels, should they be necessary, and 200 or 300 men of the Hongkong Regiment were ordered to be placed under arms so that they could be at once despatched should their services be required.

In the meantime all sorts of stories got afloat. One was to the effect that Captain Superintendent May had been captured by Chinese villagers and was being held prisoner, and another

said that the Captain Superintendent had been struck on the head and seriously injured. The idea of the Captain Superintendent being captured by Chinese villagers is too absurd for anything, but there is no doubt that he and his party were in a tight corner. They were pelted with stones and bricks and though hit were fortunately not seriously injured.

It appears that Captain Superintendent May went to Taifoo on Monday for the purpose of seeing how the police mat-shed which was being erected there was getting on, and also to exchange some Chinese soldiers for the police guard. He had also arranged to meet the elders of the village, who wanted to see him about the mat-shed. On his arrival he went to the temple in the village and met the elders, but there was such a noisy crowd in the temple that it was impossible to discuss anything. Finally the elders asked the Captain Superintendent if he would order the mat-shed to be removed, as it interfered with the "fung-shui" of the village. He told them that he could not do this, and added that the site of the mat-shed had been actually selected by the leading elders of the nearest village, and that if the nearest village to the mat-shed had no objections to it on the score of "fung-shui" he did not see why they should have any. One of the elders then said that the site belonged to him and not to the village the Captain Superintendent had mentioned. Mr. May replied that if he could produce proofs that the site belonged to him the British Government would buy it from him. To this the elder replied that he did not want to sell the site—that he could not sell it.

The interview then terminated, and soon afterwards a rough throw a brick into the temple yard, and another man came in and called upon the bystanders to arrest Mr. May's interpreter as a traitor to his country.

After this the majority of the visitors were induced to leave the temple. Mr. May waited until he thought the crowd had cooled down, and then he endeavoured to retire to his boat. He had with him six Sikhs armed with side-arms, two district watchmen, and one Chinese detective policeman. Five Chinese soldiers were also waiting outside the temple. On Mr. May and his party getting outside someone struck the interpreter in the back and another man caught him by the queue and tried to detain him. The interpreter was between Mr. May and the Sikh sergeant. The latter released the interpreter's queue, whereupon someone hit him on the head with a brick. Bricks and other missiles then began to fly about freely, all the members of Mr. May's party being struck. The Chinese soldiers got separated from the police by the crowd, and as things began to look serious the Captain Superintendent assembled the Sikhs in the lane and ordered them to draw their swords and charge. In this way they beat back the crowd, who were armed with chairs and various household utensils. A couple of Chinese soldiers who kept between the crowd and Mr. May's party rendered good service. They indeed behaved very well, and as they were armed with rifles the crowd were afraid to molest them. The police were then able to return to their boat.

The mat-shed is situate some distance from the village, and as it was nearly finished and Mr. May was anxious to save it if possible he sent the interpreter, the district watchmen, and the Chinese detective back to Hongkong—as the crowd seemed to have most animosity against them—with a letter asking for assistance.

On darkness coming on Mr. May marched his men to the mat-shed to protect it. It was soon apparent that they were not to be allowed to spend a quiet evening, for the villagers began to make demonstrations—beating gongs and firing off what was apparently a revolver. Ultimately, however, this ceased for about an hour. Then towards ten o'clock the police observed lights moving backwards and forwards in the surrounding villages and on the neighbouring hill sides; bombs were fired, horns blown, and drums beaten. It was evident that the villagers were going to attack the police quarters. Accordingly Mr. May withdrew his men to a neighbouring and higher hill. Shortly afterwards there was a large explosion of crackers, and the crowd, which had completely surrounded

the hill the police had first occupied, rushed on to it. They could hear them explaining that the police had gone.

Mr. May, then saw that the villagers intended firing the mat-shed, and while they were engaged in doing this he withdrew his men down the reverse slope of the hill and hid them in some reed and cactus beds. After firing the mat-shed the villagers dispersed to their respective villages, some of them passing quite close to the hiding place of the police. Between twelve and one o'clock the police took up a position on a road by which they could gain Shatin, and here they waited until daylight. They then made their way slowly towards Shatin, and as Mr. May could not see that any assistance had arrived from Hongkong he started for home, where he arrived at about seven o'clock yesterday morning, to find that the relief had already left.

The Sikhs were in an exhausted condition. They had had no food for 24 hours, their religious belief preventing them from eating what food was to hand, and in consequence Mr. May was anxious to get them home.

At one o'clock yesterday afternoon fifty men of the Hongkong Regiment under a European officer were sent to the scene of the disturbance and another two hundred are being held in readiness for any emergency. Major-General Gascoigne, Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, and Captain Trefusis accompanied the Fusiliers.

RETURN OF THE TROOPS AND DESTROYERS.

THE "WHITING" RUNS ON TO A ROCK.
6th April.

The relief expedition which set out for Tai-po in the early hours of Tuesday got there in good time and soon learned that Captain Superintendent May and his party had left for Hongkong. The surrounding country was scoured, but it was found that the villagers had dispersed and that everything was quiet. The site of the police mat-shed which had been burned to the ground the previous evening was visited.

The Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart had the elders of the village of Tai-po brought before him. He spoke severely to them of the occurrences of the previous day, and warned them of the punishment which would follow such proceedings. The elders professed to be exceedingly sorry for what had occurred, and promised to do their best to keep the place in peace in the future.

Shortly afterwards the expedition started for home, where it arrived in good time.

On the *Whiting* entering the harbour it was seen that her bows were staved in, she having run on a rock in the fog. Her water-tight compartments, however, prevented any serious inconvenience from being felt. She will have to go into dock.

ATTACK BY A CHINESE MOB.

GERMANS ASSAULTED: ASSAILANTS KILLED.

A PUNITIVE EXPEDITION.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]
Shanghai, 2nd April.

Three Germans—Lieut. Hannemann and Messrs. Forshulte and Moots—armed only with revolvers, were attacked twenty-five miles from Ichoufu by over a hundred Chinese armed with guns and gongs. After vainly parleying, the Germans repulsed their assailants, killing three and fatally wounding three more. They finally reached Ichoufu safely. It is hoped a German force will be landed to pacify the country.

LATER.

A German force was landed yesterday at Yichao, eighty miles east of Ichoufu, and is marching thither.

SHANGHAI, 3rd April.

The German punitive force proceeding inland from Yichao to the scene of the attack on Lieut. Hannemann has instructions to burn two villages.

Ichoufu is quiet. The officials are unfriendly.

THE WAR IN THE PHILIPPINES.

CAPTURE OF MALOLOS.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]
MANILA, 1st April.

The Second Division under General MacArthur occupied Malolos this morning. No opposition was offered.

The Insurgents went to Calumpit, six miles North, two days ago, leaving a small force at Malolos, who burnt the best part of the town on the approach of the Americans.

THE RESISTANCE BREAKING UP.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]
MANILA, 4th April.

The McKinley Commissioners have issued a proclamation to the Filipinos outlining the United States attitude and requirements.

Reconnaissances made five miles north of Malolos encountered a force of 1,000 near Calumpit.

The natives are returning to their homes daily.

AMERICANS IN MALOLOS.

PHILIPPINE CAPITOL FALLS WITHOUT A SHOT, BUT IS BURNED AND DESERTED.

A WEEK'S FIGHTING AND HEAVY LOSSES.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Malolos, 31st March.

Last Saturday morning, less than one week ago, Major-General MacArthur with the entire second division on the firing line and two brigades as supports, began the movement which culminated in the occupation of Malolos to-day. The advance was commenced at La Loma Church, on the north side of the city, at daylight, and no sooner had the Americans left their trenches than the insurgents opened up a heavy fire from the woods on the east of the church, at about 1,000 yards range. The Americans advanced in a long thin line some two and one-half miles in extent running north and south. Twelve pieces of artillery and two rapid-fire machine guns were kept to the front, dragged by mules or pulled over difficult places by the batterymen themselves. The natives remained in their trenches until the range was about three hundred yards, and then they broke and ran through the cover of bamboos and swampland to San Francisco del Monte, where a short stand was made.

By half-past seven the main body of the enemy on Brigadier-General Otis's front, which was the left wing of MacArthur's division, had been driven back two miles and were making desperate efforts to reach their comrades on the right beyond San Francisco del Monte, where General Hale's brigade was being slightly checked by the heavy opposition and difficult country. The river Tuliayan runs almost east and west at right angles to the American advance, and it was hoped to rush the enemy so quickly that they could not cross the river without heavy loss. The plan was partly successful, and by maintaining perfect junction between the two brigades no broken place in the line permitted any rest or safe retreat. After reaching del Monte, General Hale swung his troops to the left and began the advance in a northerly direction. At the same time General Otis changed his front slightly and proceeded straight on to the river. General Hall, with three regiments, was stationed on the extreme right beyond Hale, and, taking his position from Hale's right wing, he marched eastward, passing south of San Francisco del Monte, and penetrating almost as far out as the waterworks and San Mateo valley.

On the extreme left General Wheaton, with three regiments, occupied the trenches in front of Caloocan, and as soon as Otis reached the river Wheaton began his advance along the railroad. Thus the entire country from the railroad on the north to the waterworks, eight miles east of the city, was on the move.

It was planned for Otis and Hale to carry the advance as far as Novaliches, north-east of the city, then to swing left and sweep the country in a westerly direction as far as Polo. At the same time Wheaton was to advance up the railroad and join MacArthur, the division commander, at Polo, which is 15 kilometers from Manila. But the difficulties of fording the Tuliayan River, and the heavy work of the cavalry and baggage trains combined, and the rough character of the country, prevented the fulfilment of the scheme. After crossing the river the troops marched in a westerly direction along the north bank toward the railroad.

On Sunday afternoon Prince Lorwenstein went out on the firing line and finally joined the Oregon Regiment, where the work was severe in front of Malabon. The rebels were strongly entrenched in hidden places, and Colonel Summers warned the Prince to remain in the reserve as the danger was very great. However, he joked about the danger, and thanking the colonel he told him he would be cautious. He advanced beyond the lines and came under a cross fire of Americans and insurgents. The unfortunate man was found shot in the abdomen and died shortly after. The accident is sincerely regretted by the authorities.

On Sunday afternoon Wheaton met MacArthur's advance guard near Malinta. A river separated the forces and the insurgents were fortified on the north bank. All the morning the trenches were shelled by the artillery, and the infantrymen picked off the enemy as they retreated to the brush in small bunches of ten or fifteen at a time. After the trenches were well emptied the troops advanced, crossing on the railroad bridge, which was partly destroyed, and entered the fields south of Malinta without a shot being fired. The position the insurgents had vacated was unusually strong, protected by trenches and forts with earth banks fifteen feet thick, and casemates to break the effect of shrapnel. Dozens of places were found where the shells had hit, inflicting comparatively little damage. At Malinta a trap was laid which caused the death of a brevet Brigadier-General and seven men. The desertion of the trenches led the troops to believe that the natives had retreated a long distance ahead. Scouts returned stating that the enemy was nowhere in sight. Accordingly the men advanced confidently, little expecting an attack, when suddenly, just as the line was coming over the brow of a low hill in front of an old ruined church, a heavy fire opened up from the front and right. The 22nd U. S. Infantry, which fought in Cuba, was on the direct front and immediately began the charge, supported on the right by the 3rd U. S. Infantry and the 3rd U. S. Artillery. In twenty minutes the enemy had been driven flying through the woods, but the short fight cost the death of Brigadier-General Egbert, former Colonel of the 22nd Regiment.

The same night the troops reached the outskirts of Polo, and in the morning the town was occupied, but not before a large portion had been burned by the deserting natives.

A line was now drawn in and a more compact front formed, with Otis and Hale on the firing line under MacArthur, and Wheaton placed in the reserve.

Meyouayan, Marilao, and Bocave were all taken, each one after a fight, in which both sides lost more or less heavily. The rivers and lack of roads greatly retarded the progress of the army and many hundred yards of railroad were destroyed. Nearly all the wagon bridges were damaged, but as a rule they were so strongly built by the Spaniards that the Filipinos could not entirely remove the massive stone arches. Several attempts were made to burn the railroad bridges, but with little success.

ONE HUNDRED PRISONERS TAKEN.

At Marilao the Americans succeeded in surprising the rebel trench on the opposite bank less than 100 yards distant. A red-hot infantry fire was rained into the works, preventing the enemy from running to cover, which lay some three hundred yards behind the trench, until the artillery was brought up. Two or three shrapnel at close range so thoroughly scared them that a white flag was held up over the trench, followed by the battle of guns with the bayonets stuck in the ground. Two soldiers of the Pennsylvania Regiment

across the river and took the flag. The troops were hurried across and about 100 prisoners were taken, all with their arms. This is the first large surrender, and the natives must have been thoroughly frightened.

From Bocare the march was uneventful, beyond small fights occurring at nearly every bit of wooded country, until Guiguinto, thirty kilometers from Manila, was reached. Here a considerable force was met and a hard fight of an hour ensued, during which the enemy lost about eighty and the Americans thirty in killed and wounded.

Every town was completely deserted, only chickens, dogs, and a crowd of the inevitable Chinamen being found. Many of the villages were destroyed by fire before the insurgents left.

Prisoners taken at Guiguinto stated that Aguinaldo was present during the fighting and a large number of his staff officers also viewed the operations. The general impression is that Don Emilio was many miles beyond the danger line.

On Thursday night the troops had reached Santa Isabel, a little town on the railroad one mile and a half from Malolos. Four miles just covered had produced no opposition whatever, though several lines of vacant trenches were passed. Just at dark the enemy was discovered by scouts to be entrenched at the edge of the woods, beyond some open paddy-fields 1,000 yards ahead, but they were not disturbed.

A NARROW ESCAPE.

General McArthur had a narrow escape, also Adjutant Strong and three correspondents, who were standing on the railroad, which is considerably higher than the surrounding fields. The party was looking over a map which General McArthur was explaining when suddenly a volley of Mausers came down the road, many bullets striking within a dozen feet. Everyone dug for cover with all possible haste, except the General, who scarcely shifted his position. Skirmishers were immediately sent out who discovered a concealed trench less than three hundred yards away, and a few shots were exchanged with the fleeing sharpshooters.

MALOLOS AT LAST.

At daylight on Friday morning the troops were all on the line ready for the advance, but action was delayed until seven o'clock, when a bombardment commenced which lasted for thirty minutes. Before the firing began the natives started cheering and yelling and gesticulating within easy sound and sight of the Americans. Then they settled back into the trenches and sent in a volley by way of letting their presence be known. However, there was no answering fire, though many a soldier fingered the hammer of his gun and longed for the command to advance. At seven o'clock General McArthur took up his position near the battery on the left of the railroad, and a minute after there was a roar as the first gun sent its messenger tearing over the trenches. On the right of the track were two more 3-in. guns, a Colt's automatic, and away over on the right were a Hotchkiss revolving cannon and a 1.65 c.m. mountain gun. In less than two minutes these were all booming away with shot and shrapnel. At the start a few volleys were sent in answer by the natives, but long before half-past seven that had ceased, and they were scampering away in all directions. When the bombardment ended the infantry began the advance, passing trench after trench without the slightest opposition, except from a few escaping Filipinos, away over on the Nebraska and South Dakota fronts in the right wing, who were making away for the mountains with all haste.

Half-a-mile beyond the starting point the line halted and scouts were sent out, who reported no enemy in sight. A few old men were brought in who told conflicting stories of no value. The march was resumed and all haste made to reach the town, as a thin column of smoke was seen rising from among the trees in the direction of Malolos.

Three lines of heavy, skilfully-fortified trenches were passed over, but they gave no evidence of having been occupied. It must have taken weeks of labour to construct such elaborate defences.

Colonel Funston, of the Kansas Regiment, was in the position nearest the town and accord-

ingly he advanced beyond the lines with a squad of fifteen men. Following a winding street, a place was reached from which the church could be seen blazing in several parts of the wings. The left wing of Otis's Brigade was just entering the southern streets when a volley was fired down the road the Kansas men had come up. In a moment the troops were pouring into the city from three sides, and they were all greeted by Col. Funston at the square to which he had dashed at the head of his squad at the first firing.

The town was in one mighty confusion, no Filipinos, but hundreds of bewildered Chinamen running in all directions, climbing out of windows and over roofs, attempting to save goods from burning houses. From them it was learned that the main army had retired to Calumpit, six miles beyond, two days previously, leaving only a small guard to burn the town on the American approach. They were successful in destroying the best buildings of the place, and then fled just in time to save themselves.

Guards were immediately placed on all the stores and houses, and in half an hour perfect order reigned.

The troops went into camp just beyond the town and will probably remain a day or two until the new advance is decided upon. This business of chasing is about played out, and some attempt to catch the enemy and inflict severe loss must be matured.

This week of fighting has cost the Americans 400 killed and wounded. On an average the army has progressed four miles per day.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

On the 5th April the Annual General Meeting of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce was held at the rooms of the Chamber, City Hall, under the presidency of Mr R. M. Gray. There were also present:—Hon. T. H. Whitehead, Hon. J. J. Bell Irving, Messrs. T. Jackson, A. McConachie, A. Haupt, H. A. Ritchie, W. Poate, N. A. Siebs (Committee), H. Wicking, G. Sharp, E. S. Whealler, A. Shelton Hooper, G. L. Tomlin, E. W. Mitchell, J. Lewis, D. E. Brown, G. W. F. Playfair, G. A. Potts, T. Arnold, G. Stewart, J. R. Michael, C. A. Tomes, P. Brewitt, G. Sharp, R. H. Hill, A. H. Rennie, G. de Champeaux, J. H. Maclehorse, A. J. Raymond, A. B. Avasia, F. W. Hall, G. H. Wheeler, A. G. Wood, Ho Fook, Liao Tze San, and R. C. Wilcox (Secretary.)

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The minutes of the last annual meeting of the Chamber and the public meeting held to hear an address from Lord Charles Beresford were confirmed.

THE WORK OF THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, I think that I may with advantage follow the usual practice and propose that the report of the committee and the secretary's accounts for 1898, which have been in your hands for some time, be taken as read. The report embraces a considerable variety of subjects and shows that we have not been altogether idle during the period under review. The year that has elapsed since I had the pleasure of addressing you at our last yearly general meeting has been a very momentous one in the life of this colony. Not only have we seen most important developments in the neighbouring Empire of China, but we have experienced the enlargement of our own boundaries, which cannot fail to add immensely to the growth and importance of the colony, while at the same time providing it with a better means of defence. Events at Peking marched rapidly last year, and your committee, remarking their tendency, decided to throw in their weight with the representatives from other bodies, and took occasion in May last to address the secretary of State for Foreign Affairs both by wire and mail on the subject, strongly urging the necessity alike for the benefit of the Colonists and on strategic grounds, of securing a new frontage to the north, and the cession of certain islands in the vicinity. When in July we gathered some hints as to the conditions of the convention signed on the 9th June, that the granted

concession was clogged with a stipulation for the reservation of Kowloon city under Chinese jurisdiction, together with a landing-place there for the convenience of Chinese men-of-war, etc., while the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs desired to keep a footing within the waters of the colony, it was decided by the committee that an earnest protest should be sent home to the same quarter pointing out the necessity of absolute freedom from Chinese Customs and jurisdiction of the whole Kowloon extension territory. (Applause.) This was accordingly done, and I am happy to state that it has now been officially given out that the Chinese Customs stations will be removed to their own frontier. We are still without precise information with regard to the proposed Chinese reservation of Kowloon city, which was apparently conceded for the saving of Chinese face, but which can only be regarded as a mistake, as it must either be a farce as far as Chinese jurisdiction is concerned, or else an intolerable thorn in the flesh of the colony, which will necessitate early and complete extraction. There has been considerable delay in taking possession of the new territory, over which the British flag has not yet been hoisted, but arrangements are now in progress for its administration and, we trust, early development. The newly-acquired territory, with the same conditions of freedom under which this port flourishes, promises to have a most successful future and to be of much value to this colony, giving, as it will, greater scope for the establishment of new industries, and the cheaper habitation of a large population, without let or hindrance to their free circulation within our borders. In congratulating ourselves on this acquisition, we should not forget to record our thanks to Sir Claude MacDonald for his successful exertions on our behalf. (Applause.) The use of bank notes having become far more general of late years, the inconvenience to trade caused by their scarcity even when the authorised limit of issue had been somewhat exceeded, was greatly aggravated last Midsummer by the Bank concerned being called upon to reduce its circulation to the legalized amount, and the pressure felt by all engaged in commerce was so marked that some relief became imperative. The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation accordingly made a proposal to the Government that for any excess of the authorized note issue they would lodge silver dollar for dollar in the custody of the Colonial Treasurer. This proposition was strongly supported by your committee, and, having been accepted by the Government, has afforded the desired relief by an adequate supply of note issue. In this connection, I would like to point out that the colony is at present flooded with dollars and small coin from the Canton mint, and also Japanese yen, none of which are legal tender. They have, however, been introduced here, and were no doubt obtained at a discount. This is an evil which will grow, and being one which causes inconvenience and loss to the general public, steps should be taken to amend it. The sudden resolve by the Government last September to raise the rents asked for wharves and piers, by something like ten times the amount now paid, elicited a protest from the Chamber, but the Government, in reply, expressed their inability to modify the revised tariff. H.E. the Governor, who arrived meantime, has, I am glad to note, recognised the reasonableness of the Chamber's suggestions, and I understand an amended tariff on a more equitable basis has been practically agreed upon. The idea of shortening the periods of leases of Crown lands, in order that the Government should reap the benefit of some of the unearned increment, has been extended to Hongkong by the Colonial Office, although the circumstances are different from those ruling in the United Kingdom. After a brief trial of the system of short leases when the colony was first started, the Government granted leases for 999 years (practically equal to freehold, except in the point of Crown Rent), and for about half a century land has been sold in this colony for that term, which the Chinese rightly consider as being quite as good as freehold as regards tenure. This policy has now, without any previous notice, been reversed, and your committee, considering that the short period would be likely to adversely affect sales, and cause an unfair appreciation

of existing properties, with a tendency to crowd the old lots, addressed a strong protest to the Secretary of State, through this Government, on the subject. Mr. Chamberlain was, however, not to be moved, and adheres to his decision, though expressing a readiness to embody terms in the leases providing for their renewal for a similar period at such an advance in Crown rents as seems justified by the then value of the land. No provision is made for a reduction in the Crown rent in the event of depreciation. (Mr. Granville Sharp—"Hear, hear.") The working of the Post Office during the past year caused great dissatisfaction and inconvenience and gave rise to much correspondence. The Chamber addressed strong representations to the Government on the subject, in response to which General Black requested the Secretary of State to appoint a trained officer from the English Post Office to succeed Mr. Northcote as Assistant Postmaster General. Unfortunately, no attention has been paid to this most reasonable request, and the position is to be filled by an official with only a colonial experience at St. Vincent. We have in Captain Hastings, who now directs the Post Office, a zealous officer, who may be relied upon to do all he can to ensure care and despatch, but it is very much to be regretted that when a Government Department has been allowed to lapse into a state of inefficiency, trained assistance has not been provided to thoroughly re-organise the staff. There is also a strong opinion abroad that the accommodation in the present building is insufficient for this important and still growing department. Without consulting the colony, or at any rate not until it was too late to object, the Colonial Office has extended to us the system of penny postage with the United Kingdom and certain of the other colonies. Excellent as is the universal system of penny postage, I fear that its partial application will prove an expensive matter to this colony, judging from the Memorandum of the late Postmaster-General, Mr. Thomson, who estimated a probable loss to the revenue of \$30,000 annually. Owing to the interruption of cable communication with Luzon during the hostilities in the Philippines last year, we were for some time deprived of the valuable and timely storm warnings we have for many years been accustomed to receive from the Observatory at Manila. Fortunately for the colony and its shipping, last year was one of comparative immunity from typhoons. It was, however, a considerable relief when telegraphic communication with Manila was restored, and these messages were recommenced. In reference to this subject, since the report was written, an unpleasant incident has occurred. The Director of the Manila Observatory has addressed to the Chamber a letter in which he states that in consequence of certain representations made by the Director of the Observatory at Kowloon to the Weather Bureau at Washington, instructions have been given to the Manila Observatory to discontinue sending these storm warnings to Hongkong. It would appear from the letter from Father Algué, that Dr. Doberok took exception to the messages and accused the good Directors of the Observatory at Manila of being possessed of very little scientific education, and of sending sensational typhoon warnings to the Hongkong newspapers. This communication with the Weather Bureau at Washington was without the sanction of the Hongkong Government, who, in consequence of a despatch from this Chamber enquiring into the matter, have now addressed the Military Governor of the Philippines to that effect, and have expressed a hope that the order for the discontinuance of the meteorological information will be rescinded. I fail to see how the most prejudiced person could possibly characterize as "sensational" the very brief and businesslike, but at the same time extremely valuable despatches we have been in the habit of receiving from Manila, and for which the thanks of the Chamber, as representing the mercantile and shipping community, are undoubtedly due. A scheme for making a western harbour of refuge for small craft in stormy weather, by the construction of a breakwater from Slaughterhouse Point, was advanced by Mr. B. K. Leigh, and recommended to the favourable consideration of the Government by your committee, who have in no

way altered their opinion, although H.E. the Governor does not see his way for the present to take up the question in consequence of the heavy expenditure which would be involved. The existing harbour of refuge to the eastward is not only silting up, but it possesses the great disadvantage of being to windward whenever bad weather is approaching, and is therefore very difficult of access to small craft, which consequently have to seek shelter much earlier than if they had a refuge in the opposite direction. Consequent upon the recurrence of plague last year, this colony was again put to great loss and inconvenience by the quarantine imposed at the various ports in Eastern seas on arrivals from Hongkong waters. Happily the prospect this year is brighter, and the cases of plague, both here and on the mainland, have been few in number, and we have every hope that the disease will continue to be of a sporadic character. All the same, the southern ports have already imposed quarantine upon us. To-day, we have received a notice from the Government that nine days' quarantine has been imposed at Bangkok, and the Venice Sanitary Convention Regulations will be imposed at Calcutta against vessels arriving from Hongkong. I regret to say that in the matter of taxation on foreign imports, although much has been said and more has been written, we can hardly claim to have advanced one iota. The *tao li*, or destination tax, continues to bear the same indefinite shape that it has always done, and which it will do so long as Chinese officials, from the highest to the lowest, are really unfriendly to foreign trade and look upon it as a milch cow to be squeezed in every available manner, while foreign Powers seem to be quite impotent in the matter of insisting upon the carrying out of their Treaties. It cannot be too often brought before the public, and this must be my excuse for repeating it here, that in Article 23 of the British Tientsin Treaty of 1858, after defining the method of payment of transit dues, the following words occur:—"And on payment thereof a certificate shall be issued which shall exempt the goods from all further inland charges whatsoever." This contention is fully endorsed by Lord Elgin's private despatch to the Foreign Office advising the Treaty—and yet the indefinite *tao li* tax still flourishes. The efforts made by Mr. Brennan, H.B.M. Consul at Canton, to obtain reliable information about taxation at destination had a somewhat disappointing result, as it transpired that although most articles of foreign import were professedly liable to a *tao li* tax of about 2 per cent, the system of collection is so unreliable that there is really no certainty as to its amount. With regard to the mission of Lord Charles Beresford and his meetings with us here, that is all too fresh in your recollection to need much comment from me now. We listened with much pleasure to his address here, and shall watch with interest the progress of his advocacy of the policy of the "Open Door." His Lordship has reached England, and the press of that country are beginning to discuss his suggestions. Whatever may be the outcome of those suggestions, one thing at least is certain,—nothing but good can result from the discussion of the Chinese problem and from the wide publication of the array of facts and opinions that Lord Charles Beresford has collected with the object of influencing and instructing public opinion in Great Britain and America. (Applause.) One of the recommendations in the Resolutions passed by your Committee for transmission to his Lordship has already seen partial fulfilment in the promised opening to Foreign Trade of the port of Nanningfoo on the West River, for which, I believe, we are greatly indebted to the exertions of Mr. Hosie, H.B.M. Consul at Wuchow. We have great reason to hope that this will be of much ultimate benefit to our trade. The attention of capitalists in Europe and America is being drawn to China as a field for the investment of capital and the various railway projects are making steady progress. It is most gratifying, coming down to our own borders, to know that the survey of the line from Hankow to Canton has been completed, and the one for the railway from Kowloon to Canton has just been commenced. It will, of course, be some time before we are in direct railway communication with Hankow, but that event (which but lately looked very far off) seems now to be almost

within measurable distance. The balance of trade is a very real thing in the actual foreign trade with China. When the products of the country, particularly minerals, are tapped by a railway system which will increase the volume of exports, and the money coming in for them—then, and not till then, can we expect to see the demand for imports increase in proportion to the reasonable wants of this immense population. As soon as peace is restored in the Philippines and the orderly administration of the islands undertaken, there can be little doubt that their trade will receive a great stimulus from being under the control of a progressive Power. Under the Spanish rule trade was hampered by heavy duties and the most vexatious system of customs regulations. It is sincerely to be hoped that the United States will adopt a liberal fiscal policy both in the interests of the islands and in those of trade generally. In the matter of legislation during the year we have not had much occasion for the services of our energetic member, Mr. Whitehead. The Trades Marks Amendment Ordinance has been passed with the approval of your Committee; and the Merchant Shipping Consolidation Ordinance 1899 is now on the stocks and its various clauses are undergoing the consideration of a sub-committee. Our worthy Secretary, Mr. Wilcox, has as usual given his best efforts to the business of the Chamber and a glance at our correspondence will explain that this is no light matter.—(Applause.) Concerning the Committee and the members there is little for me to add to the Report. We have lost three members only during the year, and all of these only on their discontinuance of business here. As a set-off we have to welcome six new members whose election you will be asked to confirm presently. Mr. Dodwell and Mr. Herbert Smith resigned the Committee upon leaving the Colony, and Mr. McConachie and Mr. Poate were invited to fill their places. It will be necessary for you to-day to elect a new Committee. All the outgoing Committee have consented to serve if elected. The Chamber's finances continue to flourish and improve. Our little reserve fund has grown from \$4,000 to \$7,000, with the prospect of further substantial increase next year. The Pinnacle Rock Fund, spite of all efforts to utilize it, continues to increase, although one vote of \$50, for discovery of a submerged danger, has been made from it. I do not think, gentlemen, that there is any other subject requiring special remark from me now. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts, the Committee will be glad to listen to any discussion on the various matters that have been dealt with, or to hear any views on other subjects which members may wish to present. (Applause.)

SPEECH BY MR. GRANVILLE SHARP.

MR. GRANVILLE SHARP said—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen,—We have been vociferous in our praises of Lord Salisbury, Sir Claude MacDonald, the China Association and the Navy League in London, Hongkong, and Shanghai, for the successful carrying out of the wish which had its first expression here in the Hon. Mr. Chater's letters for the extension of the colony. We now find, upon the publication of this voluminous and invaluable report, how important a part the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce has taken in this matter. Through the heat of last summer, from May to September, they have been busy, with the pen and the wire, north, south, everywhere, and they are entitled to share richly in the meed of praise which is eagerly offered by all who are concerned for the welfare of this important colony. I think, Mr. Chairman, that we are all of one mind that we should have this concession "all in all or not at all." This is altogether reasonable, and being so, the Home Government will not fail to obtain it for us. The Committee have plainly stated that this is absolutely indispensable, and Hongkong will be satisfied with nothing less. The more Chinese who come and settle here the better. If their rulers choose to visit us, well and good, but we can give them nothing approaching to a status in the colony of Hongkong or any of its dependencies. We have one lion already, and the place is not large enough for two. Unfortunately there is another and equally important defect in the Kowloon extension treaty, viz., the term of the lease. If it is deemed necessary to put the grange-

ment in this form to "save face," which people generally in China cannot understand, then the lease should have been for 999 years, and not for 99! Many people have been sorely puzzled about this apparently inexplicable problem. The Chamber, by its letter of the 22nd September last, have given very clear expression to the views of the community both native and Foreign. Their arguments being simply unanswerable, no attempt whatever is made to reply to them. The Government simply states that "after due consideration of the views expressed by the Chamber, the Secretary of State adheres to his decision that leases shall, in future, be reduced from 999 years to 75 years, or at the longest 99 years." As it is impossible for any one to transfer, even by indentured sheet, more than he possesses, it might puzzle our lawyers to make a good title for a 99 years' lease from Her Most Gracious Majesty to a Hongkong Crown lessee of a building lot in the new concession, seeing that a portion of the head tenant's lease, dated 9th June last, for a like period has already expired! Very great inconvenience must arise as the period of the Chinese Government's lease to Great Britain progressively diminishes, in the constant abbreviation of the term for which sub-leases can be granted. If no leases for 99 years are possible, we are at once shut up to 75, which the Chamber has rightly said will greatly discourage investments in the colony. I do not think that the 999 years' leases will be enhanced in value by their further issue being proscribed, but rather that all property will share in the general depression which will ensue upon this change. It is a sad disappointment to those who have been expecting the advent of a period of local prosperity upon the completion of the Reclamation. This vast undertaking could never have been accomplished had leases of 75 years prevailed along the sea front. Neither would those five magnificent blocks at its eastern end have been built. No sane man would lay out half a million dollars on a block having only a 75 years' lease. The greatest sufferers will be the Chinese, as they are the largest borrowers. The Chinese, here are not alike to those in the United States. There they are sojourners. Here they make their home. They bring their earnings in America for investment in Hongkong. Property owned by foreigners is generally disposed of upon their leaving China, always at their death, whereas that belonging to Chinese descends to their children. Chinese found families which continue after they are gone. This change in title is very seriously regarded by these people, to whom practically and increasingly the Colony belongs. They pay the taxes and support the administration of the Government. The great majority of foreigners are literally here to-day and gone to-morrow. A generation amongst them consists of three years, not thirty. Chinese families rarely die out here. There are, of course, speculative Chinese. They purchase and dispose of property, receiving any profit which may have accrued, but these do not belong to the most substantial or influential class, amongst whom the disposal of property is regarded much in the same manner as the cutting of timber is looked upon amongst the landed aristocracy in England. This is a good and wholesome feeling, and it should be the business of the British Government to recognise and encourage it. I cannot think that anything has operated to bring about this disastrous proposal but the lease for 99 years of the the Kowloon hinterland. If it is really intended to get something out of the lot holders, it is a great change of policy, and looks more like Spanish, Portuguese, or French colonization. And how have all their schemes answered? We have no internal requirements beyond the power of our ordinary taxation to discharge; we can by an effort manage to meet the charge of the military contribution, together with costly Government, provided that our resources are not squandered in fads and fancies. "Oh, but," someone exclaims, "the unearned increment!" Hongkong is the worst place in the world for a man to get anything without earning it. The Government moreover is sure of its Crown rent, no trifling item, from the moment that the hammer falls. And, so soon as the buildings are erected, it comes in for 13 per cent. upon the annual value of the whole property. All those who invest their money

in the "freehold of 999 years," such as it is, constitute themselves the bulwark of the colony's prosperity. Every native Crown lessee is himself a hostage for the peace and order of Hongkong. We, the present residents in Hongkong, are not alone interested in the preservation of the integrity of our landed securities. The monied men at home who advance upon mortgages, and the large constituency of shareholders in our old-established and successful Banking, Insurance, and Steam Companies, who lend their spare capital and reserve funds upon these securities. As the agricultural counties in England discount the bills of the manufacturing districts in the North, so naturally the Colonies make use of the savings in the mother country. We are now suffering from the depletion caused by the withdrawal of funds upon apprehensions regarding silver values. It is most undesirable that this should be further intensified by fears in reference to our land tenure. There is no more fruitful cause of financial mischief in England than the glut of money seeking employment, and the positive greed with which the most shadowy and specious projects are embraced. With money obtainable at 3 per cent. the borrower is no longer servant to the lender, but his master. It is the result of mistaken and erroneous legislation that money is at the same time worth two per cent. on one side of the world and twenty per cent. on the other, in the several portions of the British Empire. Why should the English people be almost compelled to invest their money in French, Russian, and German stocks, to say nothing of Turks and Argentine Republics, by legislation which places British Colonial securities at a disadvantage? Hongkong, in face of many difficulties, has done well, as shown in the concluding pages of the report presented to-day for our adoption. Why should so important and fundamental a change be made as that now declared, viz., the reduction of the term of Crown leases from 999 to 75 years? I shall never forget the last three words which my General Manager (a little man, but a giant in finance), hissed through his teeth at me, as he closed the door between us on my departure from England for Bombay, "Don't make changes." Mr. Chairman, I believe that the immediate and ultimate success of this new colony—the Kowloon concession—is intimately bound up with this curtailment of the term of British Crown leases. We have not the money, and the Chinese have not the money, to thoroughly develop it. It must come from England, and the 75 years' lease will not be favourably regarded as a security. But very many will be willing to advance to Chinese on mortgage of a 999 years' British title. The Kowloon Concession will, if rightly managed, largely increase the resources of the colony. At first additional claims will arise from the considerable area to be controlled, but we may presume that no attempt will be made to govern this territory precisely as Hongkong is governed. A small loan may probably be needed, but, if carefully expended, the dollars will soon come back and there will be no need to rely upon the profit from the falling in of 75 years' Crown leases for its repayment. The Hon. the Secretary of State for the colonies informs us that these leases will be renewed upon such an advance in Crown rent as is justified by the then value of land, and that in the event of the land being resumed by the Government for public purposes, compensation will be given. The narrower one's experience in this direction, the greater the satisfaction with which these assurances will be regarded. I am afraid that trustees will be disposed to view these conditions in the same light that they regard the British sphere of influence in the Yangtze Valley, as somewhat nebulous. The recent legislation prohibiting Government officials from owning or dealing in land and property I think is far more injurious than beneficial, and as necessarily taking them out of sympathy with a most important class, without whose active enterprise the advance of our Colonial interests would be impossible. No doubt an effort will be made by the Government to secure that each case be decided upon its merits. This will result in a constant succession of bargainings and contentions between the Government and private individuals, opening the door to favoritism on the one hand or injustice and oppression on the other.

But surely, is such a thing at all possible? We know ourselves how very weak we are. Although a man may himself be muzzled he yet finds pleasure in popping tit-bits into others' mouths, whilst watching with vicarious enjoyment the deglutition process. Your Committee, in their admirable letter of 22nd September last, have pointed out that by direct action of the House of Commons the term of Crown leases in this colony was extended to 999 years. The application of this rule to all Crown leases was strongly recommended by the Land Commission appointed by Sir William Henry Marsh on the 30th April, 1886, and the only reason of which we are aware for a change is found in the absolutely needless and utterly unmeaning limitation of the term of the Kowloon concession. The British nation is entitled to the possession of much more than this infinitesimal portion of the Chinese Empire in perpetuity, and I trust that this Chamber will not fail to urge upon the Government the necessity of securing this concession for 999 years. We may then be able to secure sub-leases for 500.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed the adoption of the report.

Mr. GRANVILLE SHARP seconded.

THE INSANITARY STATE OF THE CITY.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD said—At the Chamber's annual meetings in the last three years—1896, 1897, and 1898, I offered a few remarks in connection with the grave injury being done to trade by the insanitary condition of Hongkong, and, at the risk of wearying members, I feel compelled to again direct pointed attention to the state of matters still prevailing and which are extremely unsatisfactory. The terrible visitation of the bubonic plague in 1894 was attended with lamentable loss of life and the most hurtful consequences to the general interests of the colony. Since then there has been a recrudescence of sporadic cases of plague each year and two somewhat extensive epidemics, one in 1896 and the other in 1898. The deaths from plague were: 36 in 1895, 107 in 1896, 19 in 1897, and 1160 in 1898, while there were 2,485 died in 1894. Besides this grievous mortality the general interests of the Colony are being seriously injured and the vast and growing shipping trade of the port suffers heavy loss inasmuch as quarantine restrictions are imposed at the present moment upon vessels arriving from Hongkong at the following ports:—Saigon, Singapore, Java, Rangoon, and elsewhere. The urgent attention of the Government has year after year since 1874 been earnestly directed to the injuries and losses resulting from the insanitary state of the city: I refer more particularly to the Colonial Surgeon's reports of 1874 and 1875 ordered by the House of Commons to be printed in 1881, to Mr. Osbert Chadwick's report on the sanitary condition of Hongkong presented to both Houses of Parliament in August, 1882, and another report by him dated July, 1890, to the report of the Permanent Committee of the Sanitary Board dated June, 1894, to the reports of the Committee on Housing the Chinese dated July and August, 1894, to the Colonial Surgeon's report on the epidemic of bubonic plague dated March, 1895, and to the report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1896. Speaking at a public meeting held in this building in June, 1894, at an election of two unofficial members to the Sanitary Board, Mr. Jackson said, and truly said:—"There is no doubt the present state of Hongkong is a disgrace not only to the Government but to our civilisation," and Mr. Ede, in a well and carefully considered minute, at a later date wrote:—"Unless some well-considered scheme be adopted to abate overcrowding, to resume, lay out, rebuild on new principles, at least the worst sections of the town, we shall never make any real permanent progress towards immunity from filth and disease." On 29th July, 1896, Sir William Robinson appointed an Insanitary Properties Commission, which consisted of Messrs. Stewart Lockhart, Chater, Jackson, Ede, and myself, and the members made a personal inspection of a number of the houses in the city of Victoria. They took expert evidence, and after careful and prolonged consideration the Commission reported on 8th March, 1898. Paragraph 4 of its Report reads:—

"We regret to have to report that there are many insanitary properties in the Colony, and

dwelling which, in their present condition, are unfit for human habitation. The back portions of a number of the houses visited by us are dark, ill-ventilated, extremely dirty, and in some cases mere dens of filth. The interior of the cubicles or sub-divisions of the living rooms was such that in the great majority of cases their contents could be seen only by the aid of an artificial light. We wish to call particular attention to the tabulated statement of the Medical Officer of Health (Appendix No. 12) in which he states that in the Health Districts Nos. 5 and 6, out of a total of 3,095 Chinese houses only 565 can be said to be in a fairly good sanitary condition. He further states that the balance 2,530 are insanitary and have been classed into A., B., C., D., and their various defects are shown therein. In the other health districts of the Colony, it appears from his evidence that a similar unsatisfactory state of affairs exists. The Medical Officer of Health in his annual report for 1896 shows that 3,095 houses in the said districts represent 8,700 separate dwellings and embrace a population of about seventy-two thousand inhabitants.

And the utmost importance should be attached thereto as the report up to and including para. 16 was a unanimous report, and as there is perhaps no one who has had a more extensive or has a more thorough knowledge of house property in Hongkong than Mr. Chater; Mr. Eds had a long experience and not only considered questions carefully but he was noted for his ability and impartiality; while Mr. Jackson's views deservedly carry great weight. The Sanitary Board in August, 1896, applied to the Government to have the Public Health Ordinance amended, and the Medical Officer of Health's tabulated statement of 1st May, 1897, shows that no more than 18 per cent. of the Chinese dwellings in the City of Victoria at that time could be regarded as "in a fairly good sanitary condition." Notwithstanding these facts and that numerous official reports on the subject as well as the unanimous recommendations of the Insanitary Properties Commission have been and are before the Government (who alone possesses the authority to act in the matter), yet up to this date the requisite legislation has not been enacted which would give the Sanitary Board the power to put the city into a thoroughly sanitary condition and thus render Hongkong as far as human energy and ingenuity can make it the reverse of a congenial habitation for the plague bacillus. It is true that a bill entitled "An Ordinance to make further provision for the sanitation of the colony and to repeal certain enactments of the closed Houses and Insanitary Dwellings Ordinance 1894" was read a first time on the 22nd November last, or five months ago, but the speech of the Hon. the Captain Superintendent of Police introducing the proposed crude legislation was so condemnatory of the measure that nothing has since been heard of it. In respect of the important question of insanitation our paternal Government continues to indulge in the policy of *laissez faire* or "drift," as former Governments did, and evidently thinks that "everything is for the best in this best possible of all worlds." The Sanitary Board is still in existence but is not constituted or formed in accordance with the law, and not unnaturally some doubt exists as to the legality of the Board's actions. On more than one occasion when taken before the Supreme Court in respect of its wrongful acts the Board has been mulcted in damages which no doubt ultimately came out of the ratepayers' pockets. Ordinance No. 24 of 1897 requires that the Board shall consist of four official and not more than six additional members, but for years past it has been composed of about five official members and one other member. At the end of the 19th century it is incredible that the most vital interests of this important British colony should be allowed to continue at the mercy of an emasculated Sanitary Board constituted at variance and not in accordance with the law by which it was established. The Chairman of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce at its annual meeting held in Calcutta six weeks ago said in connection with sanitation:—

"The most important and prominent measure which has come before the Legislative Council for consideration during the past year has been

the Municipal Bill. . . . I considered it my duty to support with all my power the Bill which I consider so essential and so desirable from every point of view. Essential because in all large cities it is of the first importance that the controlling Municipal authority should be strong and representative, energetic and progressive. Desirable because, with the present prospect of that most dangerous disease plague invading our city, we must be prepared, in anticipation, and by adopting the most necessary sanitary precautions we should at least endeavour to free this great city, the capital of India, from the accusation of being disgracefully backward in the principles of sanitation. . . . A most important question which must engage the attention of all before long will be the improvement of Calcutta.

Bombay is ahead of us in this respect; an Improvement Trust has been formed in that city and the members are already at work. . . . We may look upon plague as likely to stay in the country for some years, perhaps it may become an endemic disease in India, in which case it is the more necessary that the ports of India should be made as complete as practicable in point of sanitation so that there would be the least possible danger of a check to the commerce of the country."

These remarks are appropriate and applicable to the conditions obtaining here. There are again sporadic cases of plague in our midst and the water supply of the city is wholly inadequate. In fact, another month's drought means a water famine. Further delay in effecting the long-postponed sanitary reform is attended with grave and growing dangers. The Committee you elect to-day would do well to memorialise the Government as to the pressing and urgent necessity for doing in due course and without further delay what is requisite under the circumstances.—The hon gentleman then went on to refer to

THE IMPERIAL CHINESE CUSTOMS.

He said:—The continuance of the Imperial Chinese Customs office and establishment in and about Hongkong is extremely undesirable, and the very unsatisfactory position of matters obtaining should now be remedied. Paragraph 7 of section 3 of the Chefoo Convention of 1876 reads:—

"The Governor of Hongkong having long complained of the interference of the Canton Customs revenue cruisers with the junk trade of that Colony, the Chinese Government agrees to the appointment of a Commission . . . in order to the establishment of some system that shall enable the Chinese Government to protect its revenue without prejudice to the interests of the Colony."

The Commission was appointed and resulted in a memorandum of the basis of Agreement signed in Hongkong, 11th September, 1886, in which "the Hongkong Government reserves the right to cancel the arrangement if it proved injurious to the revenue or to the legitimate trade of the colony." The 1886 "arrangement" permits a Chinese Customs office in Hongkong and tolerates Chinese revenue and armed cruisers to visit British waters day and night—they have by courtesy the status of men-of-war—&c. The "arrangement" has worked seriously to the injury of the legitimate trade of Hongkong, more especially the trade in native vessels, and this fact has been demonstrated by the statistics furnished by the Assistant Harbour Master. The principal Chinese traders and guilds are in favour of the Customs being required to withdraw into Chinese territory. The original reason for permitting the Customs to establish themselves in and about Hongkong was the collection of opium revenue, but now they are not only collecting duties on opium for Chinese Imperial purposes, but in this British colony they are collecting general duties on goods and merchandise for the Provincial Governments. Goods and merchandise which have paid duties to the Chinese Customs in Hongkong through stress of weather or otherwise may never reach their destination, but if they do arrive at ports on the coast where there is no branch of the Imperial Maritime Customs the native officials may exact lekin and subject the said goods to other duties as if they had not already paid duty to the Chinese Government at its Customs office in Hongkong. It is contrary to all precedent that our Govern-

ment should permit the Chinese Government to collect duties in British waters. The British Government might just as readily permit an European Government to establish its Customs Houses or offices in the Thames, at Dover, or Folkestone for the collection of its duties. Opium smuggling from Hongkong was the main and continues the chief reason for the continued blockade of Hongkong waters by the Imperial Chinese Government's revenue cruisers. In some respects the Government's opium farm has been and is a great curse to the colony; it seriously interferes with the freedom of the port and the movement of the passenger traffic; it is attended with grave abuses; it is the cause of much state created crime; and it is most objectionable on political as well as on commercial grounds; the system of farming out the Opium tax is bad, and is directly opposed to the established laws of Great Britain. Hongkong is now in a position to face the loss of its Government may sustain by placing the opium importation and exportation on a sound basis. The opium trade from India is a decaying one and it is only a question of time when it will dwindle into insignificance, as the cultivation of opium throughout the provinces of China is increasing annually, and the latter being the cheaper must necessarily drive out the dearer article. Opium could be handled and dealt with as in Shanghai in hulks or in bonded warehouse or otherwise, and the Chinese Government should be required to collect its Customs duties as all other countries do in their own ports and not in British waters or in stations specially established on our frontiers. That British prestige suffers injury in the eyes of our Chinese subjects from revenue cruisers frequenting our waters and through the continuance of the Chinese Customs office in the colony goes, I think, without saying. The Chinese revenue cruisers manned by Chinese and officered by Europeans of all nationalities, including Americans, have by courtesy the status of men-of-war. It has been tacitly granted but has never been formally conceded, and the privilege, a not inconsiderable one, frees them from harbour dues and permits of their free movement in and about British waters at all hours of the night and day. The dangers which in time of war may arise from their continuance in our waters are too apparent to need to be detailed. All reasons for having the Imperial Chinese Customs in and about Hongkong waters should be abolished at the earliest date possible.

The meeting then adopted the annual report.

NEW MEMBERS.

Before the confirmation of the election of the new members, Mr. WHITEHEAD proposed the election of the General Agency of the P. M. and O. and O. Companies and Mr. A. G. Stokes.

Mr. SHARP seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the confirmation of the election of the following members:—Mr. G. P. Lammert, Messrs. Smith, Bell and Co., Mr. P. Brewitt, Shell Transport Trading Co., Ltd., Messrs. George R. Stevens and Co., Vander, Stegan and Co., the General Agency of the P. M. and O. and O. Companies, and Mr. A. G. Stokes.

Mr. JACKSON seconded.

Carried.

The meeting then proceeded to elect the Committee by ballot.

THE TYPHOON WARNINGS.

Mr. WHITEHEAD said—While the election of the Committee is taking place, it would be a very graceful act if the members adopted a resolution in connection with meteorological warnings from Manila. In consequence of the great practical value of the information hitherto gratuitously supplied by the Directors of the Meteorological Department of the Manila Observatory, and of their having rendered the colony and the shipping interests invaluable services, I beg to submit the following resolution. In view of the very satisfactory letter dated 28th ult. received by the Chamber from the Government in connection herewith, which has been published in the local press, I need scarcely do more than express the hope that the motion will meet with the unanimous support of the Chamber:—

"The members of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce desire to convey to the Rev. Father Jose Algué, S.J., the

expression of their extreme regret and dissatisfaction at the unjustifiable attack made upon the Rev. Director of the Manila Observatory and his colleagues by the Director of the Hongkong Observatory, and at the consequent stoppage by the American Government of the telegraphic meteorological warnings from the Philippines. The members desire to place on record their high appreciation of the very valuable services at all times rendered by the Directors of the Meteorological Department of the Manila Observatory to the mercantile and shipping community in Hongkong and China, and their hope and expectation that in a very short time full justice will be done the Directors of the Manila Observatory by the acknowledgment of the immense practical value of their labours in the past for the public benefit and in the cause of science and the restriction recently placed upon them be speedily removed."

Mr. Lewis—I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution in connection with this very important subject. I would like to suggest that the Committee take steps to secure like warnings from Zikawei Observatory.

Carried.

THE COMMITTEE.

The CHAIRMAN afterwards intimated the election of the Committee as follows:—Messrs. R. M. Gray (Chairman), A. MacConachie (Vice-Chairman), A. Haupt, J. J. Bell-Irving, T. Jackson, W. Poate, H. A. Ritchie, N. A. Siebs, and T. H. Whitehead.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

The following is the Committee's report submitted to the meeting:—

The Committee have pleasure in now submitting to the Members of the Chamber the following report of their proceedings during the past year—

INTERNAL TAXATION ON FOREIGN GOODS IN THE TWO KWANG.

It will be remembered that in 1897 a protest was addressed to the British Minister at Peking against the practice in the Two Kwang of farming out the taxes, and His Excellency was at the same time requested to use his influence to procure from the Authorities publication of the internal tariffs, it being of great importance to merchants and traders to know what taxation goods have to meet after being franked by transit pass. On this head further correspondence has been carried on, and it was elicited that a concession allowing imported goods to be sold in transit, under certain trifling formalities, had been agreed to at the suggestion of the German Minister at Peking. As an additional result of the representations made on the subject, the Viceroy at Canton abolished the farm for collecting *likin* on kerosine oil, under instructions from the Tsungli Yamen, who further ordered that the practice of farming such taxes should be discontinued. With regard to the publication of the internal tariffs, however, the information gleaned by Mr. Brennan was not satisfactory, as it transpired that, although most articles of foreign import are nominally liable to a *tsu-li* tax of about two per cent., the system of collection is so singular that there is really no actual guarantee obtainable as to its amount. Your Committee accordingly addressed Her Majesty's Minister at Peking on this question, pointing out the impolicy of the recognition of the *tsu-li* tax and urging His Excellency to insist upon the adoption of some scheme whereby consistent taxation can be guaranteed and the illegal exactions which at present hamper trade finally abolished. To this communication no answer has yet been returned. (Appendix A.)

THE SEIZURE OF MR. WATTS'S COAL AT SAIWAN IN KWANGSI.

A good deal of further correspondence passed with Her Majesty's Consul at Canton on this subject early in the year. In the end Mr. Brennan arrived at the conclusion that Mr. Watts had not proved his case, and that in a dispute between two Chinese it was not for him to go behind the Magistrate's decision. (Appendix B.)

THE PINNACLE ROCK FUND.

The efforts made last year to bring the existence of this fund prominently to the attention of the Naval Authorities, Consuls, and Maritime Customs Authorities with a view, by offer-

ing rewards, to induce the Chinese fishermen to make known hidden dangers on the Coast, though cordially taken up by the various authorities, have not been prolific in actual results, the only award made being one of \$50 to Captain Pi, of the Chinese gunvessel *Namtung*, for assisting to point out the submerged rock on which the steamer *Namoa* struck in the Haitan Straits in October, 1897. As, however, the fact of the existence of this Fund has now been made so widely known, it is hoped that further claims will be made upon it when new surveys are in progress (Appendix C.)

THE RECTIFICATION OF THE BOUNDARIES OF HONGKONG.

The unsettled state of affairs at Peking and the concessions obtained by other Powers from China induced your Committee early in May to endeavour to impress upon the Foreign Office the opportuneness of pressing the demand on the Chinese Government for the long-needed extension of the boundaries of this colony. The changed conditions under which warfare can now be conducted had rendered it imperative for the safety of the harbour that its approaches should be secured; whilst the growth of the population, the development of its industries, the increase of its water supply, and the desirability of providing for its future expansion alike called for some enlargement of its boundaries. Your Committee therefore addressed strong representations to the Noble Lord the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs both by telegram and by letter. Again, in July, when the conditions of the convention signed at Peking on the 9th June by which a large area at the back of Kowloon together with Lantau and other islands were leased to Great Britain for ninety nine years, it became known that a condition had been incorporated therein by which the city of Kowloon was to be made a Chinese reservation, your Committee promptly addressed a vigorous protest to Lord Salisbury on the subject, both by wire and subsequent despatch. Learning later that the Imperial Maritime Customs were claiming new concessions, which would materially restrict the freedom of the trade of the port, further protests, in the shape of despatches and resolutions were addressed to the Hongkong Government for transmission to the Foreign Office and to the British Minister at Peking and a full statement of the objections to the reservation of Kowloon and the proposed formal establishment of the Chinese Customs in Hongkong communicated to the London Chamber of Commerce with an earnest request for their assistance in the matter. What has been the result of the Chamber's representations, in which they worked in line with the China Association and the Navy League, has still to be learned, for the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has apparently not yet found opportunity to reply. There is, however, judging by recent official statements, reason to believe that the protests made have not been without good fruit inasmuch as the customs Stations are to be removed from the Colony. (Appendices D. & E.)

THE LOCAL BANK NOTE ISSUE.

The restriction of trade, the great inconvenience to the community, and the pressure felt by those engaged in commerce by the necessity imposed on the Banks to confine their note issue within prescribed limits, which the development of trade had long since outgrown, had for some time been felt to be a serious and increasing drawback. Complaints having been made early in the year that the Note Issue had exceeded the legalised amount, the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank reduced its issue on the 30th June within the prescribed limits, but the inconvenience caused to trade was so great that the management made a proposal to the Government that for any excess of limit to the issue of notes the Bank would be prepared to lodge silver dollar for dollar in the custody of the Colonial Treasurer. At the meeting of the Committee held on the 13th July this proposal was unanimously supported, and a copy of the resolutions together with that of the minutes of the meeting referring to the subject were forwarded to the Government, by whom, on the authorisation of the Secretary of State, the Bank's proposition was subsequently accepted, and the stringency in the money market was thereby completely alleviated.

THE QUESTION OF THE INDIAN CURRENCY.

The announcement made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies in June last that Sir Alfred Dent had been appointed a member of the Commission to consider the question of the Indian Currency, conveyed to the Chamber through the Local Government, elicited the opinion from the Banking authorities here that the proposals of the Indian Government to withdraw ten crores of current silver rupees annually for the purpose of establishing a gold standard in India, would be injudicious and tend to aggravate the evils now existing in connection with the currency in that country.

THE RENTAL OF WHARVES IN HONGKONG.

The local Government having, in September last, by an Order in Council, suddenly raised the rental of wharves and piers to about ten times the amount hitherto charged, the Committee addressed an earnest remonstrance to the Executive on the subject, pointing out that in the case of the steamboat companies, who only maintained these piers for the convenience of passengers and derived no revenue from them, great hardship would be entailed, and that the excessive increase in the rent was calculated to restrict the landing facilities in the colony. The Government, in reply, expressed regret at being unable to modify the scale of charges; but in December last His Excellency the Governor made an Order in Council repealing the above-named Order together with the new regulations under it, and an amended tariff on a more reasonable scale is now under consideration.

THE WORKING OF THE POST OFFICE.

During the past year the unsatisfactory working of the Post Office entailed a mass of correspondence, in which numerous complaints of delayed delivery of mails, of missent correspondence, and of theft or disappearance of important letters formed the most conspicuous features. In response to urgent representations on the subject from this Chamber, Major-General Black, then administering the Government, beside instituting several reforms and precautions in the service, suggested to the Colonial Office the necessity of appointing a trained officer from England to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of the Assistant Postmaster General, with a view to securing efficiency in the working of the Postal Department; but your Committee now learn with regret that an officer, who has only had a local experience in the West Indies, has been appointed to succeed Mr. Northcote in that post. The Committee welcome the appointment of Commander Hastings to take charge of the Post Office on account of his well-known energy, but nevertheless fear that until new Offices are provided and the staff strengthened, some causes of dissatisfaction must still continue to arise.

REDUCTION OF PERIOD OF CROWN LEASES.

Acting on instructions from the colonial Office, the Government have reduced the period for which leases of Crown Lands were granted, viz., from 999 years to 75 or at the most 99 years. Your Committee, considering that this course would not only place existing lots at an unfair premium but was calculated to restrict the demand for land and therefore to delay or prevent the expansion of the colony generally, addressed a strong remonstrance, through the Government, to the Secretary of State on the subject. Mr. Chamberlain, in reply, adheres to his decision, but states that terms will be embodied in leases providing for renewal at the time of expiry thereof at such an advance in Crown rent as is justified by the then value of the land, and without fine, for a further similar period, and that in case of resumption for public purposes compensation will be given. This decision is very unsatisfactory.

STORM WARNINGS

In June last your Committee, having regard to the suspension of telegraphic communication with Manila, which precluded all idea of the receipt of the customary warning of the approach of typhoons formerly sent by the Manila Observatory, suggested to the Government the possibility of securing a supply of weather telegrams from South Cape, Formosa. The Government, in reply, stated that they were already in communication with the Government of Labuan, and hoped through the French Consul to secure observations from two stations in Annam, but

that the Lighthouse at South Cape had been destroyed by the Chinese before leaving Formosa and that the cable between Tamsui and Foochow had been cut. Since that time the cable communication with Manila has been restored, and it is to be hoped the weather telegrams from that port will be continued as promptly and efficiently as under the Spanish Administration.

PROPOSED WESTERN HARBOUR OF REFUGE.

A suggestion having been laid before the Committee in September for the formation of a harbour of refuge for small craft in the western end of the harbour of Hongkong, and the proposal, which was to construct a break-water from Slaughter House Point giving an area of about eighty acres, seeming feasible, and the idea of providing a refuge to leeward very desirable on account of its easy accessibility without towage, a letter was addressed to the Government recommending the scheme to favourable consideration. The Government, in reply, raised several points, the chief being how and from what source the cost of the undertaking could be defrayed, whereupon the Chamber responded that the cost of the work should come out of the general revenue of the colony, and deprecated any attempt to provide the funds by the imposition of new taxes on shipping. His Excellency the Governor, who had meanwhile arrived, has since expressed regret that, owing to the heavy expenditure such a work would involve, he is unable to recommend it for the present to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

PENNY POSTAGE.

At the end of October the Committee received from the local Government a circular from the Secretary of State for the Colonies covering a report from the Duke of Norfolk on the result of the Conference on Postage within the British Empire together with a report by the local Postmaster General on the proposal to include this Colony in the scheme and asking for the opinion of the chamber on the proposed changes. Seeing that the changes had already been decided upon, the Committee replied that they considered the matter had practically been removed from the domain of discussion, but they added that if further opinion were desired they regarded Mr. Thomson's Memorandum as a fair statement of the position of the Colony in this matter.

QUARANTINE.

The recrudescence of Plague last spring here and on the mainland was the signal for a hurried imposition of quarantine on vessels arriving from this port, Macao, Canton, Swatow, &c, at the ports in the Straits Settlements and to the South, as well as at Japan, &c. The Chamber and the local Government addressed protests to the Singapore Chamber of Commerce against such action when only sporadic cases of the disease were present, deprecating the resort to restrictive measures before the real necessity was apparent. The Singapore Chamber, in reply, supported the action of their Government. The plague subsequently increased, and this colony was consequently subjected to the loss and inconvenience attending the quarantining of arrivals therefrom during the whole of the summer months.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PASSENGERS.

A cognate question to the foregoing was the medical inspection of passengers arriving in Hongkong from Canton and Macao, and the great inconvenience caused to the travelling public by the detention of the river steamers for this purpose as well as the practical resultlessness of such inspection were pointed out to the Government by the Chamber. A modification was thereupon suggested by the Sanitary Board, to the effect that the inspection should take place after the vessel came alongside the wharf instead of in the quarantine anchorage. To this, however, the Committee were obliged to dissent, since it would involve closing up the ship for some hours and prove even more objectionable than the inspection as previously carried on, and they accordingly urged the discontinuance thereof as being of little real value. It was not, however, until the end of June that the medical inspection of the steam-boats was discontinued.

EXPORTERS AND THE SHIPPING CONFERENCE.

A joint letter from a number of firms engaged in the export trade was received in May

last calling attention to the sudden changes in the rates of freight homeward made by the Shipping Conference and the want of adequate notice to exporters, whereby the latter were seriously handicapped, and asking the Committee to take steps to bring about an improvement in this state of affairs. In reply, the Committee, while sympathising with the exporters under the circumstances narrated, did not feel justified in taking up the question, which was really a matter between shippers and ship-owners, but suggested a united representation on the subject by the exporters to the Conference setting forth the inconvenience caused by the lack of sufficient notice of change in arrangements.

THE MISSION OF LORD CHARLES BERESFORD TO CHINA.

In connection with Lord Charles Beresford's Mission to China and his recent visits to this colony a series of resolutions were passed at a special meeting of the General Committee on the 19th November last, in response to a suggestion made by his Lordship, when passing through in September, giving the Chamber's views on the political and commercial situation, and forwarded to him while up North. The Committee were especially anxious that the importance to British and foreign trade of Hongkong and its situation *vis-à-vis* the provinces of South China should not be lost sight of in the eager attention being given to the Yangtze Valley as the chief field in China of British trade and influence. They further urged the abolition of inland imposts on foreign goods throughout China, the amalgamation of the Native and Foreign Customs, the suppression of brigandage and disorder in the Two Kwang, and the throwing open to foreign trade of the entire waterways of China. On the 3rd January, a public meeting, under the auspices of the Chamber, was held in the City Hall for the purpose of welcoming Lord Charles Beresford and hearing an address from him. At that meeting, his Lordship gave the results of his observations in different parts of China and strongly advocated the policy of the "open door," urging as a means towards securing its maintenance the reorganization of the Chinese army, the better to give security in the country and to maintain the Imperial authority. The address was most cordially received and a vote of thanks to the gallant and noble speaker passed with enthusiasm.

THE BANK OF CHINA, JAPAN, AND STRAITS (IN LIQ.) v. CERTAIN CHINESE SHAREHOLDERS.

In this case, heard in October last at Shanghai, the Taotai delivered a judgment which practically absolves Chinese from all responsibility with regard to the unpaid liability on shares subscribed for by them in British joint stock companies. Acting in co-operation with the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce, your Committee addressed a letter to H. B. M.'s Minister at Peking begging that he would use his influence with the Tsung-li Yamén to obtain a reversal of the Taotai's decision, and that he would insist upon the legality of enforcing the obligations undertaken by Chinese shareholders in foreign stock. A reply was received in January in which Sir Claude Macdonald stated that he was in communication with the Tsung-li Yamén and the Shanghai authorities on the question, and the Committee will be glad to hear that he has succeeded.

THE OPENING OF THE FREE PORT OF KIAOCHOW.

Kiaochow, on the coast of Shantung, the lease of which was acquired by Germany under Treaty with China as a naval and coaling station in March, 1897, was on the 2nd September last opened as a free port. This policy has been adopted, it is understood, in recognition of the liberality which has made so great a success of the free port of Hongkong. The Committee trust that similar prosperity will attend the new free port of the North.

THE CHINA QUESTION AS AFFECTING COMMERCE.

A letter has been received from the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce calling special attention to the resolutions passed at a general meeting of the members after hearing an address by Mr. Yerburch, M.P., on the above subject. These resolutions trust that the British Government will give every possible assistance to British

merchants and capitalists who are engaged in business in China, and that it will especially in the matter of railway construction secure for British enterprise in the Yangtze region similar preferential rights to those which Germany, France, and Russia have already claimed. They also congratulated the Indian Government of surveys for the Burmah-Yangtze Railway, and hope that the line will be carried through to Chungking. A reply was promptly returned assuring the Liverpool Chamber that the subject had received the attention of your Committee.

THE FUTURE FISCAL POLICY OF THE PHILIPPINES.

An inquiry having been made by the Singapore Chamber, asking whether, in view of the annexation of the Philippines by the United States of America, this Chamber proposed making any representations in favour of the fiscal policy for those islands under the new régime being as far as practicable in the direction of Free Trade, communications have been opened with the newly-constituted Manila Chamber of Commerce, and it has been decided to back up the representations in that direction which the latter intends to address to the Foreign Office. The unsettled condition of the Islands has so far prevented action being taken in Manila on the subject.

SUNDRY CORRESPONDENCE.

Correspondence on the subjects of the Western Australian International Mining and Industrial Exhibition, the Paris Universal Exhibition of 1900, the Adulteration of Aniseed Oil, and the Japanese Customs and the Sale of Opium Cures in Formosa will be found in Appendices Q, R, W, & Y.

THE GENERAL COMMITTEE.

The personnel of the Committee has undergone some changes since its election at the last annual meeting. Mr. G. B. Dodwell resigned in May last, as he was leaving the colony, and Mr. A. McConachie, who had meantime returned, was thereupon invited to rejoin the Committee. In December, the Vice-Chairman (Mr. Herbert Smith), resigned on leaving the colony, and Mr. W. Poate was invited to accept the vacant seat. A letter of thanks was addressed to Mr. N. J. Ede on the eve of his departure for home for the valuable assistance rendered by him during the six years that he served on the Committee.

MEMBERS.

During the past year the Chamber has lost three members only, viz., Messrs. M. S. Sassoon & Co., Messrs. Harvie & Co, and The On Tai Insurance Co., Limited, who have all discontinued business in the colony. The subjoined have been admitted to membership subject to confirmation at the annual meeting:—Mr. G. P. Lammert, Messrs. Smith, Bell & Co., Mr. P. Brewitt, The Shell Transport & Trading Co., Limited, Messrs. Geo. R. Stevens & Co., and Messrs. Vander Stegen & Co.

FINANCE.

The account for the year ending 31st December, 1898 have been audited by Messrs. J. Thurburn, and J. Y. V. Vernon. The balance at credit of the Chamber, after transferring \$2,840 to deposit account, raising that fund to \$7,000 was \$1,212.19. The Pinnacle Rock Fund from which a payment of \$50 as a reward for discovery of the "Namoa" Rock was paid, has by the addition of interest increased to \$3,415.93. Both accounts are in the hands of the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.

The steamers *Tamsui* and *Hermes*, which were recently in collision, docked at Shanghai on the 25th March, the former going to Boyd's Dock, and the latter into Farnham's Old Dock. Both vessels, the *N. O. Daily News* says, have sustained greater damage than was at first anticipated. The *Tamsui* has a hole in her side measuring, roughly, 30 ft. by 15 ft., two of her divisions, namely, the main hold and main ballast tank being laid open. In all, 26 of her frames will need replacing. The *Hermes*, apart from the huge rent in her starboard bow in which a large section of the *Tamsui's* side is curiously sticking, has, it is feared, her stem broken. It is reckoned, however, that both vessels will have their repairs executed in about ten days.

DR. DOBERCK AND THE MANILA OBSERVATORY.

DR. DOBERCK'S ACTION DISAPPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

A RENEWAL OF THE MANILA STORM WARNINGS REQUESTED

The following correspondence has been forwarded to us by Mr. R. C. Wilcox, Secretary of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, for publication:—

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 21st March, 1899.

SIR,—This Chamber has received a letter (with enclosures) from the Director of the Manila Observatory, of which the enclosed is a copy, and in which complaint is made of a communication addressed by the Director of the Hongkong Observatory to the Weather Bureau of the United States Government as seriously reflecting on the value of the typhoon warnings supplied to Hongkong by the Manila Observatory.

The experience of the Committee and of the commercial community is that the telegrams giving warning of approaching or expected typhoon furnished by the Manila Observatory have been most useful, and the Chamber and the commercial community would view their discontinuance with extreme regret.

The Committee would be much obliged if the Government will kindly favour the Chamber with a copy of the letter addressed by the Director of the Hongkong Observatory to the Weather Bureau of the United States Government.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

R. CHATERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 24th March, 1899.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st instant and its enclosure on the subject of typhoon warnings from Manila, and to state that the matter is engaging the attention of this Government.

I will communicate further with you in due course.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.
The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 28th March, 1899.

Sir,—In continuation of my letter, No. 485, of the 24th instant, I am directed to state for the information of the Chamber of Commerce that the request made by the Director of the Observatory to the Chief of the Weather Bureau, United States of America, for the discontinuance of typhoon warnings from the Manila Observatory was not authorised by this Government.

Dr. Doberck acted under the belief that he had for several years the necessary authority for his communication to the Chief of the Weather Bureau at Washington. His mistake has been pointed out to him. Intimation has been made to the Military Governor of the Philippines that the request was unauthorised, and a hope expressed that the order for the discontinuance of the meteorological information would be rescinded. The Military Governor has also been informed of the appreciation of your Chamber of the warnings sent from time to time.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

On the night of 26th March a fire broke out in Hongkew, Shanghai, where an outbreak occurred three weeks ago, that is, between the North Kiangse and North Honan Roads. Twelve houses were entirely gutted out, and the new buildings which were being run up on the recently burnt spot were more or less damaged. The origin is unknown. The property, which belongs to Messrs. D. Sassoon, Sons & Co., was insured in the South British.

A BRITISH BARQUE ABANDONED.

THE "CLWYD" STRIKES THE PRATAS SHOALS.

ALL HANDS SAVED.

5th April.

The new steamer of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, the *Futami Maru*, which is making her first trip to Australia, arrived in Hongkong yesterday, having on board the captain and eleven members of the crew of the British barque *Clwyd* viz., Captain Thomas; David Williams, steward; John Williams, cook; Thomas Hughes, sail and boats-wain; William Williams, A.B.; Williams R. Rees, O.S.; Joseph Hitchen, A.B.; Carl A. Peterson, carpenter; Thomas P. Carey, apprentice; David John Asplet, apprentice; William James Felton, apprentice; and James McLaughlin, A.B.

The *Futami Maru* left Yokohama on the 28th of March and Nagasaki on Saturday. On Monday she experienced fine weather but a lot of fog. When about 180 miles from Hongkong, to the north of Pratas Shoals, she observed a small boat displaying signals of distress, and Captain C. H. Hillocoat gave the order to bear down to her assistance. As he neared the boat the Captain saw that its occupants were Europeans. On coming alongside the latter asked if they could be taken aboard, and on receiving the reply "Yes," they got on to the *Futami Maru*, some other Europeans on a junk which was standing by doing the same.

Captain Thomas explained that he was master of the British barque *Clwyd*, which left Hongkong on Thursday for Pisco, Peru, with a cargo of rice. He added that on Saturday morning, about 2.30, when the weather was heavy and there was a heavy sea on, his ship got on to the Pratas Shoals. The vessel was not abandoned until it was apparent that there was no hope of saving her. At four o'clock, when it was seen that she was sinking fast, the Captain ordered the boats to be got out, he taking charge of one and the Chief Mate (Hugh Jones) of the other. They stood by until eight o'clock in the morning, when they endeavoured to get aboard again, but were prevented from doing so by the heavy surf.

Just before the Captain gave the order to take to the boats a heavy sea swept over the poop, going into the cabin and hold. This would swell the rice, and ultimately burst the planks apart.

The Captain's boat, which soon separated from the other, was very leaky. Three men were bailing all Saturday night. All the provisions were spoiled by the water. The men had been 23 hours in an open boat, and were despairing of keeping afloat much longer when a Chinese junk fortunately bore in sight and some of the men got aboard her.

All the men speak very highly of the Chinese, who could not speak a word of English. The Captain of the *Futami Maru* rewarded them with a couple of bags of rice and some stores.

The crew lost everything they had except the clothes they had on. The only living creatures left on board were some canaries, which were forgotten in the excitement. The cat and dog were brought off safely.

Captain Williams speaks highly of the great kindness shown to him and his companions in distress by the Captain and crew of the *Futami Maru*. Captain Hillocoat, by the way, has had to do with the saving of some 450 shipwrecked people and years ago was awarded the order of Medjijeh and the Star of Zanzibar for saving life.

In addition to Chief Officer Jones, the second boat contained Michael Crowley, second officer; Stanley Cottar, Gustar Anderson, John Kagan, F. Smyth, N. E. Nielsen, David Jones Williams, A.B.'s; and E. T. Roberts, apprentice. They had to row almost the whole of the distance to Hongkong. The first day they made 120 miles. Until five o'clock yesterday morning the weather was calm, but there was much fog. Provisions ran out yesterday morning and there was only a little water left. A further supply, however, was obtained from a junk. They arrived in Hongkong at a quarter past four yesterday afternoon.

The *Clwyd* had fairly good weather after leaving Hongkong, and when she struck was

making four and a half knots. It was then pitch dark. She was carried on to the reef by a strong current.

The *Clwyd* (for which Messrs Sander, Wieler, and Co. were the agents) was built at Newcastle-on-Tyne in 1883, and was formerly the *Melate*, of Rotterdam. She was in good condition, being a fine and tight sea-boat. Registered at Liverpool; owner Walmesley.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held on 30th March. The President (Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer) occupied the chair, and there were also present the Vice-President (the Hon. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police), the Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works), Mr. A. W. Brewin (Acting Registrar General), Mr. E. Osborne, Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), and Mr. C. W. Duggan (secretary).

EXEMPTION FROM CONCRETING.

Mr. Ho Tung applied for exemption of Nos. 337, 339, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, and 353, Queen's Road West from concreting ground surfaces, inasmuch as they are used only as godowns and not as "domestic buildings." He was going to have Nos. 335 and 341 concreted, as they were to be used as a bean-curd maker's workshop.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT seconded by Dr. CLARK, the application was granted.

THE PLAGUE.

Plague returns for Bombay for the period 14th to 27th February were submitted. On the last date 16 cases were reported and 122 deaths.

A telegram, dated March 16th, was submitted reporting cases of plague found at Howrah, near Calcutta.

A telegram, dated March 24th, was submitted reporting outbreak of plague at Saran district, Bengal.

The mortality returns for the colony for the week ended 18th March showed a death-rate of 16.4, against 21.2 for the previous week and 23.6 for the corresponding week last year. Three of the deaths were due to plague. The death rate for the succeeding week was 14.8 against 24.1 for the corresponding week last year.

The mortality returns of Macao showed 36 deaths for the week ended March 5th and 53 deaths for the following week.

Dr. CLARK said that during the past fortnight 43 houses had been lime-washed by the owners. Since the last Board meeting there had been 11 cases of plague, which was less than one a day.

It was stated that in the Central district, according to the bye-law made under sub-section 4 of section 13 of Ordinance No. 24 of 1887, all houses have to be whitewashed by the end of April, and in order to press on the work it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. OSBORNE, seconded by the Vice-President, to issue circulars to the property owners stating that if by the end of April they have not carried out the bye-law prosecutions will be instituted. Copies of the bye-law have already been circulated. It runs as follows:—

"Any house, or part of a house, which is occupied by members of more than one family shall—unless specially exempted by the Sanitary Board—be cleansed and lime-washed throughout, by the owner, to the satisfaction of the said Board not less than twice in every year, namely, during the months of January and February and of July and August in the eastern division of the City and in the eastern division of Kowloon; during the months of March and April and of September and October in the central division of the City and in the western division of Kowloon; and during the months of May and June and of November and December in the western division of the City; and notice of such intended cleansing and lime-washing shall be sent to the Secretary of the Sanitary Board three clear days before the work is commenced.

"Note.—The western boundary of the eastern division of the City is Garden Road; the western boundary of the central division of the City is Morrison and East Streets; the western division of the City lies to the west of Morrison and East Streets. The Kowloon Peninsula is divided into

eastern and western divisions by Robinson Road and a straight line drawn from the north end thereof to the boundary of British territory."

Chloride of lime is being liberally distributed.

This was all the business.

THE BUBONIC PLAGUE IN HONGKONG.

NO. 9 DISTRICT DECLARED AN INFECTED AREA.

On the 5th April a special meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held for the purpose of considering the advisability of declaring No. 9 health district infected with bubonic plague. The President (Dr. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer,) occupied the chair, and there were also present the Vice-President (the Hon. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police), the Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works), Mr. E. Osborne, Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. A. W. Brewin (Acting Registrar-General), and Mr. Duggan (Secretary).

The PRESIDENT, in touching upon the reason for calling the meeting, said that since Feb. 23rd there had been 34 cases of plague in the colony, and of this number 12 had occurred in No. 9 district.

The Hon. R. D. ORMSBY having spoken, it was resolved on the motion of Dr. CLARK, seconded by the PRESIDENT: "That Health District No. 9, bounded on the East by Eastern Street; on the West by Pumping station, Pokfulam Road, and Western Street; on the North by the harbour, and on the South by the Bonham Road, be declared infected with bubonic plague in accordance with bye laws under Sec. 13 of Proclamation 15 of 1894."

The VICE-PRESIDENT said that no police could be spared, and it was decided that the Colonial Secretary should be written to for authority to obtain four sappers for the work of disinfecting houses and house to house visitation at \$1 a day.

This was all the business.

QUARANTINE.

Mr. R. Chatterton Wilcox, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, writes us as follows under yesterday's date:—

The Chamber has just been notified by the Government that they have received the following telegram from the British Minister at Bangkok:—

"Nine days quarantine imposed on Hongkong; vessels to stop at Koh Phai for inspection."

The Government are also in receipt of a despatch from the Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal, dated Calcutta, 13th March, to the following effect:—

"I am instructed to state for your information that intimation having been received of the outbreak of plague at Hongkong, the necessary instructions have been issued to the officers concerned to strictly enforce the Venice Sanitary Convention Regulations in the ports of Calcutta and Chittagong against vessels arriving from Hongkong."

CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

A meeting was held on Tuesday evening in St. Paul's College, with the Bishop of Victoria in the chair, to consider what steps should be taken to commemorate the centenary of the Church Missionary Society, which is to be celebrated this year. There were from twenty to thirty present, and it was decided to form a Church Missionary Association in Hongkong for the purpose of spreading information and stirring up interest in missionary work, and also for helping the work in any way that may be practicable. A committee was appointed to form a plan of action. It is expected that the first public step to be taken will be a series of sermons and addresses by some of those who have had long experience of the missionary work in China.

Dr. Betz has gone from Shanghai to Chefoo to temporarily replace Dr. Lenz, the German Consul there.

STRAITS INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

ANOTHER NEW SCHEME!

The following circular was issued on the 21st March to the shareholders of the Straits Insurance Co., Limited:—

The Chairman of the local Committee in London, Mr. E. H. Forwood, has offered to endeavour to organise a new Insurance Company in London, for the purpose of acquiring the business and undertaking of the Straits Insurance Company, Limited, with a capital of £100,000, divided as follows:—

30,000 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each, full paid, subscription guaranteed by Mr. Forwood	£30,000
10,000 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each, to be given to Mr. Forwood to cover flotation expenses and guarantee...	10,000
30,000 ordinary shares of £1 each, fully paid, to be issued to shareholders of the Straits Insurance Company, Ltd., in exchange for their present holding...	30,000
15,000, ordinary shares of £1 each, fully paid, to be issued to shareholders of the Straits Insurance Company, Ltd., in exchange for, their present holding, or cash at option of Mr. Forwood	15,000
15,000, ordinary shares of £1 each, fully paid. These to be issued for subscription in London, along with the 30,000 preference shares, and along with the 15,000 ordinary shares forming part of the consideration to be paid to the Straits Insurance Company, Limited	15,000
	£100,000

The main conditions of Mr. Forwood's scheme are:—

1.—That the new Company will receive all assets and property of every kind of the Straits Insurance Company, Limited, and in consideration therefor will assume all liabilities of every kind, including the expenses of liquidating the Straits Insurance Company, Limited.

2.—The subscription of £30,000 fully paid up 6 per cent. preference shares will be absolutely guaranteed by Mr. Forwood.

3.—The qualification of the directors of the new company will be in part the holding of ordinary shares.

4.—Mr. Forwood will use his best endeavour to have 30,000 ordinary shares fully subscribed in London.

5.—All expenses in connection with the new company up to the first allotment of shares will be borne and paid by Mr. Forwood.

6.—Mr. Forwood to receive £10,000 of fully paid preference shares to cover expenses of flotation, registration, and guarantee, which will probably absorb the greater part of ten thousand pounds.

7.—Mr. Forwood will give such guarantee as will be satisfactory to the directors of the Straits Insurance Co., Ltd., for the carrying out of his scheme.

8. Shareholders will receive in exchange for their present holdings—for each share, \$20 paid,—the following:—

(a) One ordinary share of £1 fully paid in the new London Company, free from liability, and in addition thereto

(b) If 30,000 ordinary shares be subscribed in London, ten shillings in cash or

(c) If 30,000 ordinary shares be not fully subscribed, shares and cash, or value equivalent to ten shillings per share.

Nominally the consideration represents value for £1-10/- or say \$15 per share, but the subscription of the 30,000 ordinary shares is not absolutely guaranteed, and the whole of the consideration might be fully paid shares.

The Directors of the Straits Insurance Co., Limited, beg to submit Mr. Forwood's proposal for the consideration of shareholders.

If a sufficient majority of shareholders report in favour of the acceptance of this offer, it will be necessary to pass a resolution to place the Company in voluntary liquidation.

Shareholders who approve the acceptance of Mr. Forwood's proposal, with or without changes that may be deemed expedient, will be good enough to sign (in the presence of a

witness) the form of appointment of proxy annexed hereto, and to return the same to me as promptly as possible. Shareholders who do not approve of the proposal will please return the form endorsed "disapproved."

By order of the Board of Directors,

A. S. MURRAY, Secretary.

Singapore, 20th March, 1899.

"IMPERIAL FEDERATION."

LECTURE BY MR. J. W. JONES.

On the 5th April Mr. J. W. Jones delivered an address in the City Hall, under the auspices of the Hongkong Odd Volumes Society, on "Imperial Federation." Sir John Carrington, C.M.G., presided.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that Imperial Federation was the great question of the future and that he had no doubt, from his knowledge of Mr. Jones, whom he met daily in business relations, that that gentleman would give a most efficient lecture on this important subject.

Mr. JONES first touched upon the vast extent, immense population, and huge revenue of the British empire, and added that it would be seen at once that an empire of such vast dimensions entailed great responsibilities upon its administrators and upon the statesmen who framed its laws. It might be said that the British empire might be divided into five classes of states—those possessing responsible government such as Canada; representative states such as Australia and New Zealand, which were practically independent; Crown Colonies; dependencies; and protectorates. When they cast their mind's eye upon the pages of history and called to mind the empires which had existed but which were now nothing but wrecks—such as the Persian, the Babylonian, the Greek, and the Roman, the Moorish, the Spanish, the French under Napoleon I. and; in their own day, the Chinese Empire, which seemed to be falling to pieces under their very eyes—the question must naturally arise in the mind of every thinking man whether the British empire was destined to exist. Continental opinion said no—that the great colonies must in the ordinary course of things leave the mother country and set up empires of their own. The British empire had been likened to a hen rearing a brood of ducklings which eventually left their mother for the vast waters. The question then arose, how was it possible to hold such a vast empire together? Was there any elixir of youth by which a nation's longevity could be prolonged? Yes, there was—federation, which Dicey had defined as (1) "A body of countries connected by locality, history, and race capable of bearing an impress of a common nationality; (2) a peculiar state of sentiment such as that of mutual advantage which must desire union but not unity." Mr. Jones argued that the British empire fulfilled these conditions, and went on to say that real federation could not take place unless there was an assimilation of the fiscal system. It was said that the colonies had raised hostile tariffs against the mother land. Such, however, was not the case. When the mother land in 1846 adopted the principles of free trade she practically left the colonies to take care of themselves, and in order to protect their own interests they were forced to adopt the system of tariffs. Canada, at the time the most powerful colony and the most prosperous one, protested strongly against the adoption of free trade by the mother country in 1846, and Canada had again approached the mother country with preferential tariffs, and it might be taken that there was a much stronger feeling throughout the empire for fair trade now than there formerly was. The Federation should contain a British zollverein. If such were to form part of a plan it would go a long way towards joining the empire together. This idea was strongly supported by Sir Gordon Sprigg. With respect to tariffs the world was against us, and we should probably have to place ourselves against the world. The great colonial authorities favoured a commercial union in a modified form. How could Imperial federation be brought about? First, if one of the great colonies were to assert its right to make independent treaties with foreign states it would at once convulse the empire and give rise to the question of Imperial federation. Again, the increased armaments of

the mother land might become so burdensome that she might call or invite the colonies to contribute a fair proportion. They could not be asked to contribute unless they possessed some sort of representation. This would give rise to Imperial federation. Again, a great war in which the very existence of the empire was at stake—such as the war between France and Germany in 1870—would bring Imperial federation about. Last of all, it might be left to the evolution of time, if the Continental powers would only given them breathing space. England was in the best possible position to combat with this enormous question. Its constitution was flexible; it did not run on hard and fast lines. Whatever constitution was built up England must be prepared to make sacrifices to bring about Imperial unity, and the growth of colonies which were destined in future time to maintain large populations would have to be taken into consideration. It might not always be that the British Islands would contain the greatest numbers of the Anglo-Saxon race; but what could they do in the meantime? He thought that a colonial nobility would be a great inducement to cement the empire together. If they had an Earl of Sydney, an Earl of Ottawa, if favours were scattered more freely among the leading colonists who were prepared to devote their intellect and their time rather for honour than for wealth it might do much to bring about federation. Then greater facilities must be given for communication, such as the provision of an exclusive cable running through British territory; quick lines of steamboats subsidised by Government, either by the colonies or the home land; frequent conferences by the leading statesmen of the colonies with our statesmen at home; and the diffusion of literature dealing with this all important subject.

At the conclusion of the lecture the CHAIRMAN thanked Mr. Jones on behalf of the audience, and complimented him on his very able address.

LONDON COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

EXAMINATION RESULTS.

The results of the examination held in November and December last in connection with the London College of Music are announced. The candidates in pianoforte playing were examined by Mrs. Bathgate, formerly of the Royal Academy, London, and Messrs. G. Grimble and A. G. Ward. The Theory papers were examined by Dr. Arthur S. Holloway. In the following list, the schools to which the candidates belong, or their teachers, are denoted by letters placed after the names thus:—Belilios Girls' School, (B.); Diocesan School, (D.); Mr. E. Danenberg, (E. D.); Mr. F. Danenberg, (F. D.); Fairlea, (F.); Italian Convent, (I. C.); Victoria English School (V.); Mr. A. G. Ward, (W.)

PIANOFORTE PLAYING.

Senior Section.

First Class.—C. Logan (F.), E. Angell (I. C.)
Second Class.—S. Mehta (E. D.)

Intermediate Section.

Honours.—M. Hunter (B), F. Shaw, E. King (B), M. Parker (B), E. Moore (F), A. A. Wilson (V.)

First Class.—V. Benning (F), Eliz. Kingsley (I. C.), H. Schmidt (F. D.), B. Waddel (E. D.), A. A. Alves (E. D.), B. Schepplmann (I. C.), Lizzie A. Parlance (F. D.)

Second Class.—G. H. Wilson (W.), A. Lee Lun (I. C.), E. Lewis (V.), C. E. Hastings (D.), W. J. Clerihew (D.)

Elementary Section.

Honours.—R. Kennett (B.), N. Rozario (I. C.), Eliz. Best (I. C.), Mary Hopun (I. C.)

First Class.—Emma Kingsley (I. C.), M. Guterres (I. C.), E. C. Hurley (I. C.), M. C. Sutherland (F. D.), Letitia King (B.)

Second Class.—Daisy M. Mather (B.), L. Tregillus (V.), R. Watling (I. C.), M. Craig (B.) Edalina Lawrence (I. C.), P. Rozario (F. D.)

THEORY.

Senior Pass Section.

First Class.—Ruby Ley Kum (W.)

Junior Honours Section.

First Class.—M. Hunter (B.), S. Mehta (E. D.)

Second Class.—Ella King (B.), B. Waddel (E. D.), Mary F. Rodger (E. D.), M. E. H. Duncan (E. D.), M. Parker (B.), W. J. Clerihew (D.), C. E. Hastings (D.), R. Kennett (B.)

Junior Pass Section.

First Class.—E. Angell (I. C.), A. A. Alves (E. D.)

Elementary Section.

First Class.—Mary Hopun (I. C.)

The Belilios Medal for girls is awarded to M. Hunter; that for boys is not awarded, no candidate having reached a sufficiently high standard.

Prizes are awarded to F. Shaw, R. Ley Kum, E. Angell, and R. Kennett.

ALICE MEMORIAL AND NETHERSOLE HOSPITALS.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The annual meeting of the Finance Committee of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals was held at the Alice Memorial Hospital on the 30th March, there being present the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G. (chairman), the Rev. T. W. Pearce, Mr. G. Murray Bain, Mr. A. McConachie, Mr. Wong Shing, Dr. J. C. Thomson, Mr. A. Mackenzie (treasurer), and Dr. R. M. Gibson (medical missionary superintendent and secretary).

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.

The first business was the election of chairman for the ensuing year.

Mr. MURRAY BAIN, in proposing the re-election of the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, said they might go round among all the officials in the colony and fail to find a better.

Dr. GIBSON seconded, and the motion was carried with acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN, in returning thanks, testified to the great help he had received from the Finance Committee.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The annual report and statement of accounts were then submitted. The report was as follows:—

"During the year there has been a large number of out-patients, the number at Nethersole Hospital being in increase of last year, while that of Alice Hospital is rather less. The out-patients in the former consist of women and children only, and it is encouraging to know that we are gradually gaining the confidence of Chinese women—a class most difficult to reach. In this Hospital there are five wards, viz., Large ward for children, a female medical and surgical ward, an eye ward, obstetric ward and isolation ward. The in-patients are on the whole very grateful for the care they receive, while many of the Hakka women greatly appreciate the rest and comfort. One in-patient was a Hakka woman who for ten years had been thought hopelessly blind, but was admitted, operated on, and her sight partially restored. The children in the Hospital are mostly sufferers from tubercular bone disease, while in the out-patient department we have constantly to refuse admittance to cases of tubercular lung disease; we earnestly hope that in the near future some special hospital may be erected in Hongkong for care of such cases, many of whom could be cured by timely treatment.

"Miss Stewart and her Bible Woman do much good among the women and children by instructing them in Christian truths. Specially interesting is the Sunday service at 11 a.m., when all patients who are able, as well as former patients, assemble in the children's ward to listen to the evangelist. Mrs. Stevens's furlough falls due in March when she will return to England for a well-earned rest, and the ladies of the mission will carry on her work.

"Among the out-patients at the Alice Memorial Hospital are men and women of many races: Chinese, Japanese, Indians, Portuguese, with occasional Europeans. The majority, however, are Chinese of the coolie class, many of whom suffer from diseases directly due to the severity of their work. Their lives are trying, and we are thankful that God has given the means to relieve the sufferings of this class. After admission to the wards they often change completely in appearance due to rest and good food. To such, peace in this world has little or no meaning, so it is fitting that when they are set

aside from active work for a time they should hear of that peace within the heart which Christ alone can give. It is a pleasing sight to see in the Alice Wards men reading books and tracts dealing with the Christian religion, and we have reason to believe that many have thus been helped towards the Christian life. The power of Britain lies not in her warships and armies but in the men who by their righteous and Christ-like lives combat the evils within her borders, so China's salvation depends on her sons and daughters accepting Christianity.

"In March we sustained a great loss in the death from Plague of Dr. U. I. Kai, House Surgeon at the Alice Hospital. His was a most devoted and earnest life. Dr. Wan Tun Mo was transferred from the Nethersole to the Alice Hospital to fill his place, and Dr. Chan Kun Shing, who graduated recently with honours, has been appointed House Surgeon at the Nethersole. Both are earnest Christians and thoroughly capable men.

"There are at present twenty-one students studying medicine, most of whom reside in the Hospitals. On Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings they have classes for Bible study.

"Mr. Alex. Ross, on returning to England, resigned the office of Hon. Treasurer and Mr. Alex. Mackenzie kindly undertook the work.

"I wish to record my cordial thanks to those who have been associated with me and have so materially helped in the work of the Hospitals, also to the many friends who have contributed towards the needs of the sick and suffering.

"In the Nethersole Hospital, a clinique for women and children only is held twice a week, on Wednesdays and Saturdays, at 11 a.m., by the Superintendent. The number of cases during 1898 has been: New cases 494, return visits 490, making a total of 984.

"In the Alice Memorial Hospital, out-patients are seen by the various members of the staff as follows: Medical and surgical cases daily at 10 a.m.; eye diseases on Tuesdays and Fridays at 4.30 p.m.; dental diseases on Thursdays at 4.30 p.m.; vaccination on Mondays and Thursdays at 2 p.m.

"The number of cases, including 238 vaccinations and 499 dental patients, has been:—New cases 10,261, return visits 8,429, making a total of 18,690.

"In the out-patient room, 'First come, first served' is the rule, a series of numbered bamboo slips handed to the patients as they enter securing that no preference shall be given to either race or religion. Before the consultant for the day arrives, all new cases are registered and provided with prescription papers; and on the arrival of the medical officer on duty he is assisted by three students, who act as interpreter, clerk, and dresser respectively.

"Having passed under due examination, the large majority of the patients either carry their papers to the dispensary, where three students are on duty, and there receive all needed medicines free of charge; or enter a small room for surgical purposes adjoining the consulting room, where they are attended to as their cases may demand. Such patients as have need of hospital treatment are passed directly to the wards, in the Alice Memorial Hospital or the Nethersole Hospital, as may be desirable.

"Admission to the wards is usually through the out-patient consulting room, but cases of accident and acute disease and patients bearing notes of introduction from subscribers to the funds are admitted to either hospital at all hours of the day and night. No charge is made for medicines, clothing during residence, bedding, attendance, &c., and only a very small proportion of the patients are able to pay for their food.

"In the Alice Memorial Hospital men only are received as In-patients, and the three wards, Medical, Surgical, and Ophthalmic, have accommodation for fifty-three beds. In the Nethersole Hospital there are three wards for women and children with an aggregate of thirty-five beds. The work done in the In-Patient Department may be thus tabulated:—

In-Patients remaining in Hospital on 1st January 1898	31	18
In-Patients admitted to Hospital during the year 1898	453	225
Total number treated as In-Patients	484	243
Of these there were:—		

Discharged cured	284	143
Discharged relieved	129	47
Discharged on other grounds	18	12
Died in Hospital	15	19
	446	221

In-Patients remaining in Hospital on 1st January, 1899 38 22

"136 operations under the influence of an anæsthetic were performed in the two Hospitals during 1898, with results as under:—Cured 95, Improved 35, Died 6. In these figures no account is taken of the dental operations, nor of a very large number of minor surgical operations such as opening of abscesses, reduction of simple dislocations and of fractured bones, removal of nasal polypi and other small tumours, &c., performed daily in the out-patient department by the visiting medical officers, the house surgeons, and the senior students.

Daily exposition of scripture is conducted in the out-patient room in connection with every consultation, and in each of the wards there are prayers with scripture reading and exposition, while conversational work is systematically carried on among both in-patients and out-patients. This department of the work is under the supervision of the Rev. T. W. Pearce and Miss Stewart.

Mrs. Stevens desires to acknowledge with thanks donations of money to her Samaritan Fund as follows:—

Per Mrs. A. Bain	\$55.00
Miss B. Stevenson, Ochiltree... £5.0.0=	51.96
Dr. Jordan	10.00
Mrs. Fung Wa Chun	10.00
" Ho Tung	10.00
" Wai Yuk	10.00
" Burton, Glasgow	£1.0.0= 10.00
" Bateson-Wright	5.00
" Bellics	5.00
" Crawford	5.00
Per Mrs. Wells, Canton	5.00
Dr. Rennie	5.00
" Paulun	5.00
J. Jaffrey	4.63
Miss Jaffrey	7/6= 3.84
R. G.	2.00
Mrs. Kwan	1.00

\$203.40

Nurses' Fund per Mrs. Brown, Kowloon 31.50

\$234.90

From Miss Jaffrey's Class in Johnstone E.C.S.S., for the support of a Leper Child sent from the "Nethersole" Hospital to Pakhoi, £1.0.0.

To many friends who have sent other gifts she also returns her best thanks and wishes it to be mentioned that fruit, flowers, toys, picture books, and old linen are always welcome and useful, and may be addressed to her at either of the hospitals.

The statement of accounts shows a balance credit of \$1,259.43. At the commencement of the year there was a balance of \$3,329.08 in hand. The donations as per donation list amounted to \$7,311.44, in addition to which there were special donations amounting to \$563.50.

Mr. MACKENZIE, in formally presenting the treasurer's report, said that notwithstanding the fact that they had a handsome balance of \$1,200 to go forward with, they must not run away with the idea that they had more money than they could do with.

Dr. THOMSON, in proposing the adoption of the report, said that the position of the hospitals was a very sound and respectable one. They had some \$30,000 yielding permanent interest, the income from invested funds last year being \$1,779.50, which was a very good, round nest egg lying by for their yearly expenditure. At the same time, while the hospital was in a satisfactory position, he thought they wanted to bear in mind that a great deal remained to be done. Hitherto the work had been carried on with the most rigid economy at every possible point. If more funds were available a great deal more satisfactory work could be done. If their wards were full, as they might be if they were free to take in all the needy cases which presented themselves, and if they were kept full, they would necessarily spend more money than they did. Dr.

Thomson added that in moving the adoption of the report he would also like to include a vote of thanks to Mr. Mackenzie for the arduous work he had done during the past year. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. T. W. PEARCE seconded, and the motion was heartily carried.

Mr. MACKENZIE, in returning thanks, testified to the valuable assistance rendered to him by Mrs. Gibson.

The CHAIRMAN congratulated Dr. Gibson on the great success which had attended his efforts during his first complete term of office as superintendent. Owing to their funds being limited they were not able to do quite as much as they would like to do, and in that connection he should like to repeat what he had stated on previous occasions when presiding at that and similar meetings, and that was that he thought Chinese, who were the people benefited by the institution, should contribute more largely than they did at present towards the institution. (Hear, hear.) As the population of the colony increased, and especially the Chinese population, he thought his friend Mr. Wong Shing would agree with him that the time had arrived when the Chinese should come forward more liberally than hitherto, and he was certain that when the facts were more clearly laid before them than perhaps hitherto they would respond liberally to the call for subscriptions, especially when they bore in mind that it was their countrymen who principally benefited. They would all join with him in an expression of sincere regret at the death from plague of Dr. U I Kai, the house surgeon at the Nethersole Hospital. (Hear, hear.) The loss sustained by his death was a very great one. After alluding to the fact that Mrs. Stevens was taking a well-earned holiday, the Chairman added that he thought they ought to accord their thanks to Mr. Lau Wai Chuen, comprador of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, for acting as leader of the Chinese committee in the collection of funds during the year, and seeing that he had performed his duties so satisfactorily he did not think they could do better than ask him to continue as the leader. (Hear, hear.)

This was all the business.

A HONGKONG CLERK ARRESTED AT SHANGHAI.

In the British Police Court at Shanghai on the 28th March, Reginald George Hopkins, formerly in the employ of the Mutual Stores, Hongkong, was charged with the larceny of \$1,000, at the instance of the Hongkong police.

Captain Pattison, Chief of the Local Police, spoke to receiving a telegram from Hongkong as a consequence of which he gave instructions for the arrest of prisoner.

Chief Inspector Howard deposed to going on board the Austrian mail steamer *Maria Valerie* when she arrived at the lower limits on Monday. He at once recognised Hopkins as the man wanted, but no actual arrest was made until the steamer arrived at the wharf at Hongkew. When the vessel was made fast to the wharf he instructed Detective Sergeant Wood to follow the prisoner on his landing and ask him certain questions. This was done and satisfied him that the prisoner was the man wanted. Prisoner was afterwards arrested and admitted that his name was Hopkins. He made no reply to the announcement that he had been arrested on information from Hongkong for stealing \$1,000. His property was afterwards confiscated, two loaded revolvers being found amongst his property.

Prisoner was remanded for a week pending the arrival of certain documents from Hongkong.

The *China Gazette* of the 27th March says:—The Taotai's proclamation against Chinese outside the Settlements insuring against fires formed the subject of discussion at a meeting of the local committee of the Fire Insurance Companies this afternoon. We believe the Consuls will be asked to intervene with the Taotai who issued the proclamation absolutely forbidding insurance, by way of answer to the representations of the Fire Insurance people, asking him to use his influence to prevent arson. He has certainly gone the whole hog and struck at the root of ninety-nine per cent. of the causes of Chinese fires.

A NAVY LEAGUER ON OUR FLEET IN THE FAR EAST.

We have received from Mr. Claude Ley Kum a photograph of an oil painting, which he has sent to the Navy League, representing the British, American, Russian, German, and French fleet on this station, together with a copy of the following letter addressed by the artist to the Hon. Secretary of the Hongkong branch of the League:—

To H. M. SLADE, Esq., Hon. Sec. Navy League, Hongkong Branch.

Sir,—I have the honour to hand you herewith an oil painting portraying the various effective Foreign Squadrons now on the China or Far Eastern Station. In so doing I beg to state that I shall be much obliged if you will kindly favour me with your good offices with a view of having the picture delivered to the head office of the Navy League in London. I beg to explain that the object I have in view in thus depicting the various effective vessels of the squadrons in these waters is to afford the numerous members and associates of the League in England an opportunity of judging just how Great Britain stands in the matter of effective "fighting machines" vis-a-vis other nations.

In respectfully submitting this modest effort to render a slight service to the League of which I have the honour to be an associate, I trust you will permit me to give expression to opinions which I hold, and which I believe may now be of interest to many of the members and associates.

I am strongly of opinion that powerful as our British fleet now is in these waters it is still a great deal below the standard which our enormous preponderating trade would seem to indicate as being both necessary and justifiable. Our trade, great as it is at present and eclipsing that of any three other nations put together, is threatened with a cramping process caused by the establishment of "spheres of influence," hostile tariffs, and bounty-fed imports from Russia via the Trans-Siberian Railway. It is clear that we have not only to protect our commerce at it stands to-day, but we should place ourselves in a position to insist on the "open door" through all the ports on the coasts and rivers of China. Indications are, unfortunately, not wanting that the quadruple alliance, so ably advocated by Lord Charles Beresford, has dwindled down, or may soon become at the most a dual alliance, namely England and Japan, for the "open door," instead of the United States, Germany, Japan, and England. Though the United States have much to gain through the maintenance of the integrity of China, yet it is to be feared that her difficulties in the Philippines and the tendency to set up protective tariffs in the new possessions, which a large section of the American press advocates, will tend to cause the States to shrink from taking up a strong position in Far Cathay, for some time to come at all events. Now, if my surmise is correct—and time will soon prove whether I am right or wrong—it stands to reason that Britain cannot be too strong on the seas, for by crippling hostile fleets we would render our enemies less able to push to a successful issue a selfish policy, and at the same time we could strike a blow which would lower their prestige with the greatest of all Asiatic nations. We ought to be in a position to whip any combination that may be brought against us.

It has been gravely stated by Lord Salisbury in a recent speech that we have nothing to fear in the continuance of our "splendid isolation" so long as we, the whole British Empire, are united. Truer words never escaped the lips of a British Premier, and I believe that, despite the enormous advantages which at least three or four nations would reap as the result of a firm stand for the integrity of China and the "Open Door" for trade, that there are influences at work which make for the isolation of England. It is certainly wise to avoid, if possible, entangling alliances. We are strong enough and united enough to work out the salvation of our great commercial mission—commenced with the loss of so much British blood and treasure—in the Far Orient by ourselves.

In conclusion, sir, permit me to recall the opinion expressed by our late and able Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. E. Pollock, at the banquet

given in honour of Lord Charles Beresford. He said, in substance, that we should have more battleships on this station, and that if any of our best ships are recalled, they should not leave this station until replaced by equally effective fighting machines. I believe I am echoing the opinion of a majority of Leaguers in the East when I go further than Mr. Pollock and say that no ship should be withdrawn until replaced by a better manned, armed, and speedier vessel.

In the hope that you will excuse the length of this intrusion on your valuable time, and that this picture may help Leaguers at home to realize the naval situation as it is to-day out here,—I have the honour, to be, sir, your obedient servant,

CLAUDE LAY KUM,
Associate.

VICTORIA RECREATION CLUB.

ATHLETIC MEETING.

On Saturday the fifth annual athletic meeting in connection with the Victoria Recreation Club took place on the Hongkong Football Club Ground at Happy Valley. There was a good attendance, the grand stand being filled with ladies and gentlemen and the ropes thickly lined with spectators. The 'Victorious' band (by the kind permission of Captain Schomberg and officers) was present and, conducted by Acting Band master A. Fenning, played several selections of music, including the following:—March, "Piff Paff," Fenning (arrang.); Fantasia, "Populonia," Williams; Valse, "Ballscenen," Czibulka; Grand Selection, "The Circus Girl," Caryll; Mazurka Militaire, "Sabre an Clair," Missa; Descriptive, "The Darkey's Dream," Lansing.

The first event decided was the long jump, which F. H. Kew had won three years in succession. This year, however, he gave place to P. Hyndman. The distance was 18.3, whilst Kew's distance last year was 18.7, the year before 19.10, and in 1896 18.9. Throwing the cricket ball was won by J. M. S. Machado, but as there was a strong gusty wind blowing, the distance was only 90 yards; last year the Rev. G. R. Vallings threw the ball 104 yards and the year before 94½ yards. The 120 yards flat race was run by Lieut. Hall in exactly the same time as last year and in 1896—12½ sec., J. M. V. dos Remedios winning last year and F. H. Kew in 1896. Kew also came in first in 1897, when his time was 12½. Considerable interest was aroused by the bicycle races, for which there were some capital entries. Premier honours in the mile handicap were carried off by T. Benning (120 yards start), A. McKirdy, the winner in '97 and '96, being third man, and A. E. Alves, who rode first 12 months ago, out of it. Benning also beat all competitors in the two miles and the three miles, McKirdy, who won both last year, being out of the former and riding third in the latter. Having won it three years in succession, F. H. Kew last year carried off the Challenge Cup presented by the Victoria Recreation Club for the 100 yards flat race. He again proved the best man, and also reduced his time, which was 10½ seconds against 11 seconds in '98, 10½ seconds in '97, and 10½ in '96. Kew was equally successful in winning the Challenge cup offered for the 440 yards flat race. The cup has to be won two years in succession before becoming the property of a competitor. Kew carried it off in '97, and as he came in first last year he now carries it off again. His time was 57½ secs., against 1 min. 6 secs. in '98, 54 secs. in '97, and 51½ secs. in '96. The Veterans' Race was won by Neil McDonald, and W. S. Bailey, the secretary of the club, came in first in the officials' race.

At the conclusion of the sports Mrs. Gascoigne presented the prizes.

The following were the patrons and officials:—
Patrons:—His Excellency Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G.; Chief Justice Sir John W. Carrington, C.M.G.; His Excellency Major-General W. J. Gascoigne, C.M.G.; Commodore F. Powell, C.B.; Hon. B. D. Ormsby; Colonel Henry Elsdale, R.E.; Lieut.-Col. R. B. Mainwaring, R.W.F.; Lieut. Col. The O'Gorman, D.A.A.G.A.

Committee:—Capt. W. C. H. Hastings, R.N., (Chairman); Mr. W. Armstrong; Mr. G. A.

Caldwell; Mr. A. Denison; Mr. G. L. Duncan; Mr. F. Lammert; Mr. Thos. H. Reid; Mr. E. D. Sanders; Mr. M. A. A. Souza.

Judges:—Dr. J. M. Atkinson; Capt. W. C. H. Hastings, R.N.; Mr. E. D. Sanders.

Referee:—Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G.

Handicappers:—Mr. F. Lammert; Lieut. Castle, R.A.; Mr. A. Denison; Lieut. R. B. Johnson, R.W.F.; Lieut. H. Strong, R.M.L.I.

Clerks of the Course:—Dr. J. A. Lowson; Capt. C. F. Mould, R.E.; Mr. E. W. Mitchell.

Starters:—Mr. G. A. Caldwell; Mr. A. Denison.

Time Keeper:—Mr. E. Jones Hughes.

Hon. Treasurer:—Mr. W. Hutton Potts.

Acting Hon. Secretary:—Mr. W. S. Bailey.

LONG JUMP.—(Three tries). Prize presented by Messrs. David Sassoon, Sons & Co.

Entries.—J. M. S. Machado, G. Tuohy, H. S. Bevan, P. Hyndman and F. H. Kew.

P. Hyndman 1

F. H. Kew 2

The winner secured first place with a jump of 18.3.

THROWING THE CRICKET BALL.—(Three tries). Prize presented by Hongkong Cricket Club.

Entries.—J. M. S. Machado, G. Tuohy, G. R. Vallings, P. Hyndman, and J. Noble.

J. M. S. Machado 1

G. Tuohy 2

Distance, 90 yards.

THROWING THE HAMMER.—(16 lbs.).—Winners at previous meetings or elsewhere to be penalised five feet; prize presented.

Entries.—Lieut. W. Loring, R.A., P. Hyndman, William Gerrard, and J. Noble.

William Gerrard won with a throw of 96 feet. Hyndman and Machado appeared to fill up the entries.

120 YARDS FLAT RACE (HANDICAP).—First prize, presented by G. C. C. Master, second prize presented; first two in each heat to run in the Final.

First Heat.—1 A. Ellis, 2 F. H. Kew and A. L. Sutton. Time—13½ secs.

Second Heat.—1 Lieut. Hall, 2 J. M. V. Remedios. Time 13½.

Final.

Lieutenant Hall 1

F. H. Kew 2

Time—1 ½.

BICYCLE RACE, One Mile (Handicap).—Start in saddle; first prize, presented by Mr. Ho Tung. Second prize presented.

Entries.—A. McKirdy, A. A. Alves, J. C. Logan, T. Benning, A. E. Alves, F. M. Roza Pereira, M. E. Asgar, P. Hyndman, J. Noble, H. M. Bain, E. S. Ford, and A. Humphreys.

T. Benning (120 yards) 1

A. Humphreys (200 yards) 2

A. McKirdy (scratch) 3

Time, 2.52½.

100 YARDS FLAT RACE.—(CHALLENGE CUP); presented by the Victoria Recreation Club; to be won three times; first prize, presented by Mr. R. Shewan, second prize, presented.

Entries.—H. S. Bevan, Lieut. F. H. H. Hall, F. H. Kew, W. Armstrong, C. T. Kew, J. M. V. Remedios, P. Hyndman and R. Lapsley.

F. H. Kew 1

Lieut. Hall 2

Time, 10½ sec.

BICYCLE RACE.—Two Miles.—(Handicap).—Start in Saddle.—First prize, presented by the Hon. J. J. Bell Irving; Second and third prizes, presented.

Entries.—A. McKirdy, A. A. Alves, J. C. Logan, Lieut. G. B. Thornhill, A. E. Alves, F. M. Roza Pereira, T. Benning, P. Hyndman, H. M. Bain, and E. S. Ford.

T. Benning (350 yards) 1

A. E. Alves (300 yards) 2

J. C. Logan (300 yards) 3

Time—5.48½.

HALF-MILE FLAT RACE; first prize, presented by Taikoo. Second prize presented.

Entries.—D. E. Carvalho, A. Humphrey, Ed. Robinson, J. H. Logan, Jr., L. E. Lammert, A. J. Mackie, Herbert W. Looker, J. A. Moller, A. L. Sutton, P. Hyndman, and R. Lapsley.

H. W. Looker 1

J. H. Logan, jun. 2

D. E. Carvalho 3

Time—2.16.

SACK RACE; 50 yards; prize presented.

Entries.—J. H. Gubbins, E. S. Ford, W. Armstrong, M. E. Asgar, C. T. Kew, and P. Hyndman.

J. H. Gubbins 1

M. E. Asgar 2

200 YARDS FLAT RACE (HANDICAP); first prize, presented by Commodore F. Powell, C.B.; second prize presented.

FIRST HEAT.

Entries.—F. H. Kew, W. Armstrong, C. T. Kew, H. S. Bevan, A. L. Sutton and D. Hyndman.

SECOND HEAT.

Entries.—J. M. V. Remedios, R. Lapsley, Lieut. F. H. H. Hall, A. Ellis and Ed. Robinson.

F. H. Kew 1

Lieut. Hall 2

The race was run off in one heat. Time—24½ seconds.

THREE-LEGGED RACE.—100 yards. Prizes presented.

Entries.—M. E. Asgar, and J. H. Gubbins; E. Abraham, and F. G. Chunnnett; J. M. V. Remedios, and F. H. Kew; E. S. Ford, and A. E. Asgar.

E. Abraham and F. G. Chunnnett ... 1

E. S. Ford and A. E. Asgar 2

Times—17½ secs.

TUG OF WAR.—8 men a side (Open.) To be pulled over 15 feet. Best of Three pulls. No spikes or nails allowed. No sitting down. No holes to be dug in the ground before pulling. Prize presented.

Entries.—Victoria Recreation Club v. "Victorious"—Welch Fusilier v. Asiatic Artillery.

First Heat.—Victorious, a bye.

Second Heat.—Royal Welch Fusiliers. The first pull was won by the Asiatic Artillery in 1.11½ seconds. In the second pull, the Fusiliers walked away with their opponents in 55½ seconds. The third pull was hardly contested, occupying 2.10½ seconds.

Final.—Royal Welch Fusiliers. The Fusiliers won easily in two pulls of sixteen and fourteen seconds' duration.

GIRLS' RACE, 100 YARDS (HANDICAP).—Open to Girls between ages of 8 and 12, first and second prizes presented.

Alice Lisborell 1

Louisa Silas 2

Gertrude Bakow 3

ONE MILE FLAT RACE (HANDICAP).—First prize, presented by H. E. Major-General W. J. Gascoigne, C.M.G.; second prize presented.

Entries.—H. W. Looker, J. S. Bruce, R. Lapsley, G. Tuohy, J. H. Logan, Jr., L. A. Rose, J. A. Moller, A. L. Sutton, J. H. Gubbins, G. M. C. V. Ribeiro, P. Hyndman, D. E. Carvalho, A. Humphreys, and L. E. Lammert.

A. Humphreys (100 yards) 1

D. E. Carvalho (100 yards) 2

Time—5.2 secs.

120 YARDS VETERANS' RACE (HANDICAP).—Competitors to be over 35 years of age and not less than 10 years residence in India, China, or the tropics; ¼ yards start to be given for each year over 35 years of age. First Prize, presented by the Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G.; Second Prize presented. (Open.)

Entries.—C. H. Thompson, Ed. Robinson, A. M. Roza Pereira, Sr., J. H. Logan, Sr., and Neil McDonald.

Neil McDonald (43½ yards) 1

Ed. Robinson (12 yards) 2

Time—12½ seconds.

BOYS' RACE 440 YARDS (HANDICAP); post entries before 2 p.m.; open to all Boys over 12 and under 16; handicap at the post, age to be stated on entry, first prize presented; second prize presented.

C. Alves 1

J. Lopez 2

Time—1.8½.

BICYCLE RACE, THREE MILES (HANDICAP); start in saddle; first prize, presented by the Hon. E. R. Belilios, C.M.G.; second and third prizes presented.

Entries.—A. McKirdy, A. A. Alves, J. C. Logan, Lieut. G. B. Thornhill, A. L. Sutton, A. E. Alves, T. Benning, P. Hyndman, F. M. Roza Pereira, H. M. Bain, and A. Humphreys.

T. Benning (500 yards) 1

A. McKirdy (scratch) 2

A. E. Alves (450 yards) 3

Time—Benning, 8.52½; McKirdy, 9.25½.

HALF-MILE FLAT RACE.—Open to Soldiers, Sailors, and Police. Entries to be given to

the Starter not later than 2.15 p.m. First, Second and Third prizes. Prizes presented. Thakar Mal, Asiatic Artillery ... 1 Private Eynott, R.W.F. ... 2 Corporal Thomas, R.W.F. ... 3 Time—2.19.

440 YARDS FLAT RACE (CHALLENGE CUP). To be won two years in succession before becoming the property of a Competitor. First Prize, presented by H. N. Mody, Esq. Second Prize presented.

Entries.—A. Humphreys, Ed. Robinson, H. S. Bevan, Herbert W. Looker, F. H. Kew, J. A. Moller, W. Armstrong, C. T. Kew, J. M. V. Remedios, and P. Hyndman. F. H. Kew ... 1 J. A. Moller ... 2 Time—57.

CONSOLATION RACE, 120 YARDS. Post Entries. Open to all Competitors (except those in open events) who have run but not won a prize. Prize presented. Ellis and J. M. V. Remedios tied in the first run. Time—14 seconds. It was a walk over for Ellis.

OFFICIAL'S RACE.—Entries—Commander Hastings, Dr. Atkinson, Dr. Lowson, W. S. Bailey, and W. Armstrong.

W. S. Bailey ... 1 Commander Hastings ... 2 W. Armstrong ... 3

BANDSMEN'S RACE; prize presented by Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving 100 yards (Handicap). C. Triggs ... 1 Sergeant Haythorne ... 2 This was a most amusing race, the bandmen having to play their instruments as they ran.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

EASTER MEETING.

The following are the scores made at the Easter Meeting of the Hongkong Rifle Association, held on the 31st March and 1st and 2nd April.

1.—Queen's 1st Stage.—Distance 200 yds. Members only. No. of Shots—Seven. Entrance 50 cents. Three prizes value 50 per cent. of the Entries with \$5 added. Position—Standing or Kneeling. Martini-Henry Rifles allowed 2 points.

Mr. A. H. Skelton ... 32 Capt. Carlyle ... 31 C. S. M. Wallace, R.E. ... 30

2.—Martini-Henry Carbine Competition.—Distance 200 yards. Members only. No. of Shots—Seven. Entrance 50 cents. Three prizes value 50 per cent. of the Entries with \$5 added.

Mr. A. H. Skelton ... 32 Mr. A. Chapman ... 28 Mr. A. Watson ... 28

3.—Ladies' Nomination.—Open to Lady Members or their Nominees. Distance 300 yards. No. of Shots—Seven. No Entrance fee. Prizes presented.

Nominated by		
Corpl. Hill,	Miss. L. May	33
Mr. W. Toller,	Mrs. Kew	31
Mr. G. L. Duncan,	Mrs. Duncan,	31
Capt. Carlyle,	Mrs. Carlyle	30
Mr. A. H. Skelton,	Mrs. Skelton	30
Mr. G. P. Lammert,	Mrs. G. R. Lammert	30
Sergt. Bowery,	Miss Stone	30
Mr. A. Watson,	Mrs. Watson	30
Lieut. Hobson,	Mrs. Francis	29
Sergt. Blair,	Mrs. Blair	29
Corpl. Ledingham,	Mrs. F. G. Smith	28
Q.M.S. West,	Miss Coyle	28
Y.M.S. Watling,	Mrs. Watling	28

4.—Martini-Henry Carbine Competition.—400 yards. Members only. No. of Shots—Seven. Entrance 50 cents. Three prizes value 50 per cent. of Entries with \$5 added.

Mr. A. Watson ... 34 Mr. W. Toller ... 33 Mr. A. H. Skelton ... 32 Mr. G. P. Lammert } Tie ... 32

5.—Queen's 1st Stage.—Distance, 500 yards. Members only. No. of Shots—Seven. Entrance 50 cents. Three prizes value 50 per cent. of the Entries with \$5 added. Martini-Henry Rifles allowed 2 points.

Mr. G. P. Lammert ... 34 Armourer Sergeant Blair ... 34 Private Pond, R.W.F. ... 33

Corporal Hills, R.E. ... 33 Mr. A. Watson ... 33 Captain Carlyle ... 33 6.—Queen's 2nd Stage.—Distance 500 yards. Members only. No. of Shots—Ten. Entrance 50 cents. Three prizes value 50 per cent. of the Entries with \$5 added. Martini-Henry Rifles allowed 3 points.

Mr. A. H. Skelton ... 49 Corporal Hills ... 49 Armourer Sergeant Blair ... 48 C. S. M. Wallace, R.E. ... 47 Corporal Ledingham, R.E. ... 46 Mr. A. Watson ... 45 Captain Carlyle ... 44 Mr. J. M. Beck ... 44

7.—Queen's 1st Stage.—Distance 600 yards. Members only. No. of Shots—Seven. Entrance 50 cents. Three prizes value 50 per cent. of the Entries with \$5 added. Martini-Henry Rifles allowed 4 points.

Captain Carlyle ... 34 Mr. A. Watson ... 33 Col. Sergeant Ruscoe, R.W.F. ... 31 8.—Queen's 2nd Stage.—Distance 600 yards. Members only. No. of Shots—Fifteen. Entrance 50 cents. Three prizes value 50 per cent. of the Entries with \$5 added. Martini-Henry Rifles allowed 9 points.

Sergeant West, R.E. ... 66 Mr. G. P. Lammert ... 66 Armourer Sergeant Blair ... 66 9.—Queen's 3rd Stage.—Distance 700 yards. Members only. No. of Shots—Ten. Entrance 50 cents. Three prizes value 50 per cent. of the Entries with \$5 added. Martini-Henry Rifles allowed 7 points.

Mr. G. P. Lammert ... 50 Corporal Hills ... 48 Captain Carlyle ... 48 C. S. M. Wallace ... 47 10.—Queen's 3rd Stage.—Distance 800 yards. Members only. No. of Shots—Ten. Entrance 50 cents. Three prizes value 50 per cent. of the Entries with \$5 added. Martini-Henry Rifles allowed 10 points.

Mr. A. H. Skelton ... 46 Armourer Sergeant Blair ... 43 Corporal Jones, R.E. ... 42 11.—Martini-Henry Carbine Competition.—Distance 500 yards. Members only. No. of Shots—Seven. Entrance 50 cents. Three prizes, value 50 per cent. of the Entries with \$5 added.

Mr. A. H. Skelton ... 28 Mr. A. Watson ... 26 Mr. Deas ... 26 C. S. M. Watling ... 25 12.—Carbine Aggregate.—For competitors whose respective scores in Events Nos. 2, 4, and 11 make up the highest aggregates. Entrance \$1. Prizes to be selected by winners in order of merit as laid down by Rule 12 in Ladies' Competition.

Mr. A. H. Skelton ... 92 Mr. A. Watson ... 88 Mr. G. P. Lammert ... 82 13.—Queen's Aggregate.—For competitors whose respective scores in the Three Stages of the Queen's make up the highest aggregates. Entrance \$1. Prizes to be selected by winners in order of merit as laid down by Rule 12 in Ladies' Competition.

Armourer Sergeant Blair ... 292 Mr. A. H. Skelton ... 290 Captain Carlyle ... 289 Mr. G. P. Lammert ... 288

14.—All Comers.—Competitions for All Comers. Rifles or Carbines, will take place simultaneously with the foregoing events at the 200, 500, 600, 700, and 800 yards ranges. Number of shots—Five at each range. Entrance 30 cents per range. Three prizes at each range value 70 per cent. of the Entries. Tickets will be obtainable at the Firing Points. Sighting shots as per Rule 9.

200 YARDS. Mr. A. Watson } Tie ... 25 Corporal Hills } Tie ... 25 700 YARDS. Private Pond } Tie ... 24 Mr. G. P. Lammert } Tie ... 24 O.S.M. Wallace } Tie ... 24 500 YARDS. Mr. G. P. Lammert } Tie ... 25 Corporal Hills } Tie ... 25 Mr. A. Watson } Tie ... 25

600 YARDS. C. S. M. Wallace ... 25 Corporal Hills ... 24 Mr. A. H. Skelton ... 24 700 YARDS. Mr. A. Watson ... 25 Corporal Hills, R.E. ... 24 Armourer Sergeant Blair ... 24 800 YARDS. Mr. A. Watson ... 22 C. S. M. Wallace ... 21 Corporal Jenner, R.E. ... 21 AGGREGATE. Mr. A. Watson ... 121 Corporal Hills ... 118 C. M. S. Wallace ... 117 EXTRA RANGE—300 yards. Corporal Hills ... 32 Mr. G. P. Lammert ... 32 Mr. A. H. Skelton ... 31

THE ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

For the final possession of the Captain's Cup, presented in 1898 by Mr. Thomas Jackson, play was commenced during the latter half of March. There were only six of the monthly winners present in the colony at the time, and some close matches resulted, the final being a very well contested game. The draw was as follows:—Major Morris, R.A. (8), "a bye," Dr. J. A. Lowson (+1) met Mr. V. A. C. Hawkins (8); Mr. R. H. Hill (12) faced Capt. Des Vœux, R.E. (9), and Mr. E. C. Lane (16) secured "a bye," and the result of the competition is given below:—

First Round:—Dr. J. A. Lowson beat Mr. V. A. C. Hawkins by 3 up and 1 to play; Capt. Des Vœux, R.E., defeated Mr. R. H. Hill by 2 up after a very even match.

Second Round:—Dr. J. A. Lowson defeated Major Morris, R.A., by 3 up and 2 to play, while Capt. Des Vœux, R.E., won rather easily from Mr. E. C. Lane by 5 up and 3 to play.

Final Round:—A very close contest was the result of the meeting between Dr. Lowson and Capt. Des Vœux, who after a keen struggle wound up the 18 holes "all even," one of the "medico's" rounds being holed out in 39. Continuing for another 9 holes by play which was particularly close, and in which the first three holes were halved, Lowson won at the 26th hole by 2 up and 1 to play. The game throughout was stubbornly fought and credit is equally shared by both players, the golf played being distinctly good all round.

CAPTAIN'S CUP AND SILVER MEDAL FOR APRIL.

This was the first monthly competition for the cup presented on same conditions as have hitherto obtained by the new Captain for the year, and brought out a very good entry of members. The best rounds for the 9 holes were made by the winner of the cup, who put in a 40, and by Dr. Lowson, who returned two of 42 each, the equivalent of the Colonel's rounds. The absence of rain is still very much felt on the links and putting greens. Following are the returns sent in:—

CAPTAIN'S CUP. Mr. G. Stewart ... 85 2 83 Dr. J. A. Lowson ... 84 + 1 85 Mr. H. L. Dalrymple ... 94 8 86 Lieut. Izat, R.A. ... 98 9 89 Lieut. Rotherham, R.W.F. 101 11 90 Mr. C. M. G. Burnie ... 94 4 90 Capt. Des Vœux, R.E. ... 100 9 91 Mr. E. C. Lane ... 107 16 91 Mr. C. A. Tomes ... 103 8 95 31 entries. POOL. Mr. G. Stewart ... 85 2 83 Capt. E. Burnie ... 99 15 84 Lieut. Rotherham, R.W.F. 101 11 90 Mr. C. A. Tomes ... 103 8 95 22 entries. CHAMPIONSHIP, 1899. Conditions of play are fixed as follows:—All preliminary "ties" match play of 18 holes, and the final 36 holes, half to be played in the forenoon, and half in the afternoon; all ties to be played off on or before the 16th inst.; and the final on Wednesday, 19th April. The following is the "draw":—

be notified later on:—

Capt. Des Vœux, R.E. plays A bye.
Mr. A. S. Anton ... " Lt. Lloyd, R.W.F.
Mr. C. W. May ... " Dr. J. A. Lowson
Mr. G. Stewart ... " Mr. C.M. G. Burnie

CHINA MUTUAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report of the Directors, submitted at the Annual Ordinary General Meeting of Shareholders, held at the Offices of the Company, No. 3, Billiter Avenue, in the City of London, on Tuesday, the 14th day of March, 1899.

The Directors beg to submit the General Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account for the year ending 31st December, 1898, duly audited.

	£	s.	d.
The net profit, including the balance brought forward from last year, and after providing for the General Expenses of the current year, Directors' Fees, Income Tax, Interest, &c., amounts to	85,458	16	4
An Interim Dividend of 3 per cent. on the Preference Shares was paid on 1st October, 1898, amounting to	5,020	16	0
Leaving a sum of	£80,438	0	4

which it is proposed to apply as follows:—			
To the credit of "Purchase Account of Steamers"	65,000	0	0
In payment of a further Dividend of 3 per cent. on the Preference Shares	5,020	16	0
In payment of a Dividend of 10 per cent. on the Ordinary Shares (£5 paid)	8,368	0	0
Balance to be carried to New Account	2,049	4	4
	£80,438	0	4

The Directors congratulate the Shareholders on the results of the past year's working, which enable them, after paying the six per cent. Dividend on the Preference Shares, to recommend the payment of a Dividend of ten per cent. on the Ordinary Shares, having £5 paid up.

As heretofore, the Fleet has been maintained in high-class order and efficiency out of current revenue; and no accident of any moment has occurred.

The *Oolong* and *Ping Suey*, being no longer suitable for the Company's trading, were disposed of in April last.

Of the three new steamers contracted for last spring, owing to great pressure of work in the steel foundries and ship-building yards, only one has been launched. She has been named the *Yangtze*, and will be ready to take the outward loading berth towards the end of this month. The other two, it is hoped, will be launched and ready for sea at an early date. The Board feel confident that these new large-carrying powerful steamers will contribute materially to the profitable working of the Company.

The Directors have deemed it desirable to alter the mode of stating the cost of the Fleet in the Balance Sheet; and it will be observed that the amount standing at credit of "Depreciation, Boiler and Reserve Fund," has been deducted from the "Steamers' Purchase Account," thus reducing this item to £462,326 19s. 9d. It will also be noticed that they propose to carry from last year's profits, a further sum of £65,000 to this Account, thereby reducing the value of the ten steamers now working, to £397,326 19s. 9d.

The following Directors, Mr. W. M. Strachan, and Mr. D. McLean retire by rotation, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

The Auditors, Messrs. John Baker & Son and Mr. Jamieson Elles, offer themselves for re-appointment.

It is proposed that the Dividends shall be paid, both in London and the East, on 21st

March, 1899. The Transfer Books will be closed from the 6th to 15th March, inclusive.

The Company's Fleet now comprises:—

	Tons	Nominal
	Gross	Horse
	Register.	Power.
Hyson, Captain D. Davies	4,445	850
Kintuck, " C. de la Perrelle	4,447	850
Teenai, " G. W. Long	4,642	800
Moyune, " R. Conradi	4,646	800
Pak Ling, " E. Warrall	4,447	850
Kaisow, " G. F. Maitland	2,921	650
Oopack, " J. Barber	3,883	650
Ching Wo, " H. C. Harris	3,883	650
Oanfa, " J. A. Davies	3,065	750
Ningchow, " G. A. Rodway	2,708	480
Yangtze, Building at Belfast	6,500	900
Ping Suey, " " "	6,500	900
Steamer, " at Glasgow	6,500	900

DAVID REID,
Chairman.

London, 6th March, 1899.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st DECEMBER, 1898.

	Dr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To authorised capital—							
20,000 preference shares of £10 each		200,000	0	0			
20,000 ordinary shares of £10 each		200,000	0	0			
		£400,000	0	0			
Issued—							
16,736 preference shares fully paid up		167,360	0	0			
16,736 ordinary shares, on which £5 per share have been paid; upon 1,231 of these £5 per share have been paid in anticipation of calls		89,835	0	0			
		257,195	0	0			
To bills payable		133,399	18	5			
To insurance fund		20,247	2	6			
To net receipts on account of uncompleted voyages		20,863	11	5			
To sundry creditors		42,499	14	2			
To balance of profit and loss account		85,458	16	4			
Less dividend at 3 per cent. on the preference shares for 6 months, paid 1st October, 1898		5,020	16	0			
		80,438	0	4			
		£554,563	6	10			
Cr.							
By amount of purchase account of steamers		540,579	9	7			
Less amount transferred from depreciation, boiler and reserve fund		78,252	9	10			
		462,326	19	9			
By payments on account of steamers building		62,562	0	0			
		524,888	19	9			
By office furniture, and cargo stages, &c.		400	0	0			
By sundry debtors		970	12	0			
By cost of stores and coals in the East		7,909	6	0			
By cash on deposit		15,000	0	0			
By cash at bankers and on hand		5,394	8	4			
		29,394	8	4			
		£554,563	6	10			

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, 31st DECEMBER, 1898.

	Dr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To general expenses, including remuneration to directors and auditors, rent, salaries, income tax, stationery, &c.		6,842	3	9			
To interest		7,512	8	2			
		£14,354	6	11			
To balance		85,458	16	4			
		£99,813	3	2			
Cr.							
By balance from last account		48,347	8	11			
Less—							
Dividend paid							
March, 1898		10,041	12	0			
Amount placed to credit of depreciation, boiler and reserve fund		37,000	0	0			
		47,041	12	0			
By profit realized		1,305	16	11			
		98,507	6	4			
		£99,813	3	2			

CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

At noon on Saturday an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in the China and Manila Steamship Company, Limited, was held at the offices of the general managers, No. 9, Praya Central, for the purpose of confirming or otherwise the resolution passed at a previous meeting and which reads as follows:—"That the capital of the company be increased to \$300,000 by the creation of 1,000 new shares of \$50 each, such increase to be made up by the conversion into capital of \$50,000 of the present profits or earnings of the company." Mr. Tomes presided, and there were also present Messrs. D. Gillies, N. A. Siebs, J. H. Lewis (directors), W. J. Saunders, Fung Wa Chuen, and Ho Fook.

The notice convening the meeting was read. On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Saunders, the resolution was confirmed. This was all the business.

STRAITS INSURANCE COMPANY.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

On the 15th March an extraordinary general meeting of the Straits Insurance Company was held at the Company's offices, Singapore. There were present:—Hon. T. C. Bogaardt (Chairman), Hon. G. S. Murray, Messrs. D. W. Lowell, T. S. Thomson, A. W. Stiven and W. Naef (Directors), Mr. A. S. Murray (Secretary), Hon. J. Burkinshaw (Legal Adviser), Messrs. Thos. Scott, P. C. Hoynek van Papendrecht, Lee Cheng Yan, A. R. Catto, M. Meyer, Lim Ho Puah, Way Koon Sim, Onk Tiang Soon, Ong Koon Choo, M. S. E. Angullia, and other shareholders.

The Chairman said the object for which this meeting had been called was fully explained in the circular letter addressed to the shareholders by the directors issued a month ago. So far, only two shareholders, holding between them 60 shares, had declared themselves as opposed to the resolutions which he was about to submit for their approval, while over 30 shareholders holding an aggregate of 4,000 shares had sent proxies to be used in support of these resolutions. As explained in the circular they found that their underwriting for the years 1895/6/7 would entail, before these accounts were finally liquidated, the writing off as lost of half the paid-up capital of the Company. If the resolutions about to be submitted were carried, a resolution providing for the writing down of the capital would be submitted to a special meeting of the Company to be convened on the 29th instant. In order that the Company might carry on and compete successfully for the best class of marine insurance business, it was necessary that they should strengthen its financial position by adding to the paid-up capital an amount equal to that to be written off. Their gross income, last year, amounted to very nearly one hundred thousand pounds, but the reduced limits upon which they had thought it necessary to work and the cautious policy pursued entailed the giving off of nearly £40,000 in reinsurance. This same policy of cautious and restricted underwriting was answerable for the high ratio that the expenses bore to their premiums; but expenses were being curtailed, and with additional capital they would be able to resume underwriting on more liberal lines, so that expenses would bear a more reasonable proportion to their income. They expected to be able to place a considerable portion of the new capital in London, but the first offer of the new issue would of course be given to present shareholders. It was hoped that they would subscribe liberally. They had in the past had periods of ill-fortune and good fortune alternately, and after three years of unprofitable trading they might now reasonably look for a favourable change. The utmost care was being given to the selection of business and if more profitable times were really in store for marine insurance companies they would share in these; and if the bad times continued, following their present policy and with a restricted account, they would not be any worse off at the end of another year than they were now.

No questions being asked, the Chairman proposed, seconded by Mr. Naef, the following resolution:—"That the capital of the Company

be increased by the creation of 30,000 new shares of \$10 each. That the new shares be called preference shares and that every holder thereof shall be entitled to be paid a cumulative preferential dividend of a sum in dollars which at the rate of exchange at Singapore at the date of such payment is equal to one shilling and three pence sterling per annum, or such other amount as the Directors shall when issuing such shares decide in respect of the preference shares held by such holders which shall have been fully paid up. That in the event of the Company being wound up, the holders of the said preference shares shall be entitled to have the surplus assets of the Company applied and paid, firstly, in paying to every holder of preference shares a sum in dollars which at the rate of exchange in Singapore at the date of such payment is equal to one pound sterling in respect of every preference share held by such holder which shall have been fully paid up, and secondly in paying off the arrears (if any) of the preferential dividend aforesaid to the commencement of the winding up."

Mr. Thomas Scott said that he wished to propose an amendment. There was much room for criticism in the resolution just read, also in the remarks made by the Chairman. As he had many friends on the Board he did not wish to take up that attitude, but might say, however, that the closing remarks by the Chairman afforded ground for what he was about to say. They all knew that the position of the Company was extremely bad, and he therefore proposed that the Directors be instructed to wind up the Company in the most prompt and economical manner they could devise.

On being put to the meeting, the amendment was lost by 10 votes to 8.

Mr. Scott then requested that a poll might be taken.

The Secretary replied that it was necessary that three members should make a demand for a poll before it could be granted.

Mr. Scott's proposal on being put to the shareholders was not supported.

The Hon. G. S. Murray remarked that the directors would like to support Mr. Scott in demanding a vote.

Mr. Scott replied that he did not wish to put the proposal forward now, as he was of opinion it was too late.

The resolution proposed by the Chairman was passed by twelve votes to six.

The Chairman then proposed the following resolution:—That the Article numbered 83 of the Articles of Association of the Company be altered by the addition thereto at the end thereof of the following words:—"The preceding words of this clause shall not be applicable to shares issued after the first day of March, 1898. Votes in respect of such last mentioned shares may be given either personally or by proxy without regard to the length of time that the holders thereof have been registered as proprietors thereof."

This was seconded by Mr. W. Naef and carried.

After a vote of thanks had been accorded to the Chairman, on the motion of Mr. T. Scott, the meeting terminated.—*Straits Times*.

THE CENTRAL STORES, LIMITED, SHANGHAI.

The fourth annual meeting of the shareholders in the Central Stores, Limited, was held on the 24th March, in the Central Hotel, Shanghai, Mr. Edney Page presiding. There was a large attendance but everything passed off smoothly enough. After a slight preliminary skirmish with Mr. A. M. A. Evans about the reading of the minutes and some remarks from that gentleman about the Secretary relying on newspaper reports for his minutes of the last meeting, the Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts and reviewed the year's business and the changes introduced into the operations by the closing of the Stores, dwelling briefly on the improved outlook. Mr. W. W. Clifford seconded the adoption of the report and accounts, though he did not agree with everything the Chairman had said. The report and accounts were then adopted, and Capt. J. H. P. Parker was elected a director in place of Mr. W. W. Clifford retired, the board now consisting of Messrs. E.

Page, H. J. Limby, J. A. Stewart, and Capt. Parker. At the Extraordinary meeting, which followed, the subjoined resolutions were adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Limby, after some remarks by Mr. Evans:—

1.—That the capital of the Company be reduced from \$200,000 (Mexican) divided into 200 Founders' Shares of \$20 each and 9,800 Ordinary Shares of \$20 each to \$91,845, divided into 123 Founders' Shares and 6,000 Ordinary Shares of \$15 each, and that such reduction be effected by cancelling 77 Founders' Shares and 3,800 Ordinary Shares unissued by the Company and by cancelling Capital which has been lost or is unrepresented by available assets to the extent of \$5 per share upon each of the 123 Founders' shares and 6,000 Ordinary Shares which have been issued and are now outstanding.

2.—That in respect of each of the Shares in the Capital of the Company upon all of which the sum of \$15 (Mexican) has been paid up, Capital be paid off to the extent to \$3 upon the footing that the amount returned or any part thereof may be called up again.—*China Gazette*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE ALLEGED SERVING OF A WRIT ON AN AMERICAN CITIZEN ON BOARD A FRENCH MAIL STEAMER IN HONGKONG HARBOR ON THE 25TH MARCH, 1892.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Sir,—I have to request that you promptly publish a very clear retraction of the absolutely false, grossly misleading, and exceedingly libellous allegations contained in the following paragraph as published in your journal on the 30th of March, 1899:—

"On Saturday a writ was served on W. F. Sylvester, of the firm of Louis Spitzel & Co., of Tientsin, by an officer of the United States Consulate-General, on board the Messageries Maritimes steamer *Caledonien*. The writ was in a suit filed with the United States Consular Court at Canton on March 17th, 1899, E. B. Drew versus W. F. Sylvester. E. B. Drew seeks to recover the sum of 15,000 taels alleged to be due under a bond to the petitioner from the defendant, which provided that the American steamer *Abbey* should convey direct to the port of Singapore, and to no other place, 500 Mauser rifles and 500,000 Mauser cartridges. On the strength of this bond a Customs permit was granted. The shipment, however, was not landed as agreed in Singapore, but proceeded to the island of Luzon. The steamer *Abbey* was seized on or about the 25th September last, and is at present in the hands of the United States Naval Authorities."

There is no truth in the statement that Mr. W. F. Sylvester, of the firm of Louis Spitzel & Co., was served with a writ on board the Messageries Maritimes steamer *Caledonien* either by "an officer of the United States Consulate-General," as asserted, or, as would, if necessary and justifiable, by any officer, bailiff or detective, in the service of the Government of Hongkong.

The petition of Mr. E. B. Drew, Commissioner of Chinese Customs referred to, was, as stated, filed in the United States Consular Court at Canton, to recover on behalf of the Chinese Government the sum of taels 15,000 on a bond signed by Mr. W. F. Sylvester. The whole matter was referred from Canton to Shanghai, where the United States Consul-General, in whose Court the suit will be heard, decided to postpone hearing *sine die*.

There has been no writ served at all in this matter. Mr. Drew filed a petition and it appears that a copy of this petition and of the bond in question in some way reached the United States Consulate in this colony, and that Mr. A. O'D. Gourdin, who is entered in the *Directory* as Secretary of the United States Consulate, proceeded on board the *Caledonien* and handed to Mr. Sylvester a document purporting to be a certified copy of Mr. Drew's petition aforesaid. Mr. Sylvester informed Mr. Gourdin that the whole matter was now in the hands of the United States Consul-General

Goodnow, at Shanghai. There was no reason why the United States Consul-General in this colony should have interfered in this matter, having no jurisdiction in the premises, and no writ having been issued in the matter, either in an American Consular Court in China or anywhere else, it may be taken for granted that no bailiff or any officer or employee of the United States Government served on Mr. Sylvester on board a French Mail Steamer in the waters of this British Colony a writ as set forth in the offensive paragraph in your journal.

You state as a fact that "the shipment was not landed as agreed in Singapore, but proceeded to the Island of Luzon." There has as yet been no hearing in the matter referred to, and it is therefore clear that no evidence has been led which would justify such a positive assertion.

In justice to Mr. Sylvester, I have to state that the arms in question were sold in the month of June last; that he (Mr. Sylvester) would have ignored any "service" by the United States Consul-General in this Colony in connection with proceedings in a United States Consular Court in China, and in so doing would be justified, for it is well known that the Hongkong Government employs officers who alone are legally entitled to "serve writs" and perform other duties pertaining to the Courts of this British Colony.

I have yet to learn that an American Consul accredited to the British Government can exercise jurisdiction in, or is justified in interfering with any American citizen, on British territory. I should have thought the serving of a writ would be done when necessary by some officer of the Hongkong Government acting upon the definite instructions of the British authorities.

Therefore, being no truth in the assertion that a writ was served on Mr. Sylvester, and your paragraph being of a most offensive and libellous nature, I request that you will publish this contradiction in your next issue.—I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,

LEWIS L. ETZEL.

Hongkong, 1st April, 1899.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Referring to the letter in the *Daily Press* of 4th April signed by Lewis L. Etzel for Louis Spitzel & Co. wherein my name is mentioned as having served a certain paper on one W. F. Sylvester of the firm of Louis Spitzel & Co., a passenger on the M. M. steamer *Caledonien* on March 25th, the document served was a certified copy of a petition filed with the United States Consular Court at Canton on March 17th, 1899, in the case of E. B. Drew versus W. F. Sylvester. The petition after setting forth that the conditions of the said bond was declared to be "that if the defendant should by himself or his agent produce and deliver to the petitioner within the period of six weeks from the date of the now reciting bond a certificate signed and sealed by the Consul of the United States at the port of Singapore to the effect that the 500 rifles and 500,000 cartridges aforesaid had duly arrived on board the steamer *Abbey* at the port of Singapore then the said bond should be void and otherwise should be and remain in force and virtue," stated that "the said rifles and cartridges were shipped on board the steamer *Abbey*, but the defendant (either by himself or his agent) had never produced before or delivered to the petitioner any certificate signed or sealed by, or any proof whatever that the said rifles and cartridges had arrived at the port of Singapore, and, in fact, the said rifles and cartridges were never conveyed to Singapore, but were conveyed to the island of Luzon, or to one of the Philippine Islands." The petition stated that payment of the sum of fifteen thousand taels had been demanded from the defendant, and was refused, and the petitioner in consequence prayed that judgment might be given against the defendant accordingly with interest and costs.

Not finding the name of Mr. Sylvester among the published list of passengers I enquired of an officer of the *Caledonien* if he were a passenger. He replied "no." Having seen in a New York paper that W. F. Sylvester was known in Philadelphia as F. W. Sutterlin, I

asked if Mr. Sutterle was a passenger on board. The same officer replied "no." Whereupon I asked if there was any passenger on board by the name of John Doe. The officer replied "yes" and went with me in search of him. I found him in the smoking room with Mr. Etzel, a young man whom I was told afterwards was a Mr. Spitzel, Mr. H. R. Williams, and two others. Recognizing him from a photograph I asked him if his name was Mr. W. F. Sylvester. He said "Yes," and I then handed him the certified copy of the petition.

A. O'D GOURDIN.

Hongkong, 5th April, 1899

AGREEMENTS BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYED.

RESTRICTIONS ON THE EMPLOYÉ ENGAGING IN COMPLETING BUSINESS.

In the Supreme Court at Shanghai on the 29th March, Sir Nicholas Hannen, Chief Justice, delivered the following judgment in the suit of A. S. Watson and Co., Limited, v. E. Q. Cooper, in which the plaintiffs appealed from the judgment of the Amoy Consular Court:—

This is an appeal from the judgment of the provincial Court of Amoy in a suit for damages and other relief instituted by the appellants against the respondent. The appellants are a British company carrying on the business of "chemists and aerated water manufacturers, wine, spirit and cigar merchants, at Hongkong and various ports in China. The respondent is general manager to Messrs. Moalle & Co., stevedores and ship chandlers at Amoy, dealing, amongst other things, in aerated waters, wines, spirits and cigars. The plaintiffs in their petition claimed £800 from defendant, being £100 for every month during which he had been in the employ of Messrs. Moalle & Co., in violation of a contract dated 9th February, 1888, clause 10 of which runs as follows:

"10—The said Edwin Cooper shall not within twenty years from the date hereof engage directly in the business of a chemist, druggist, aerated water manufacturer, perfumer, wine and spirit or cigar merchant or dealer, or become assistant to any other person carrying on any such business whether wholesale or retail or simply as agent or agents thereto or as merchant either at Hongkong or at any treaty port of China or Japan or at Manila or the Philippine Islands or the Straits Settlements or Siam or Cochin China without the consent in writing of the said Company under the hand of the General Manager first had and in the event of the breach of this clause by the said Edwin Cooper he shall and will pay to the said Company the sum of (one hundred pounds) £100 sterling for each and every month or part of a month during which he shall have been or shall be so engaged whether directly or indirectly the said sum to be payable and recoverable monthly and every month as and for liquidated damages and not as penalty." They further alleged that they had never consented to the defendant joining the said firm of Moalle & Co.

The defendant in his answer alleged, *inter alia*, that the agreement imposed an unreasonable restraint of trade and was opposed to public policy. He also submitted that the plaintiffs had by their actions admitted his right to violate the covenant. The judgment of the Court below which consisted of the Provincial Judge and two assessors found (one assessor dissenting) for the defendant with costs on the ground that the restriction went beyond what was reasonably necessary for the protection of the plaintiffs, regard being had to the nature of their business. In the petition of appeal the appellants alleged, *inter alia*, that the contract was divisible and that the second issue in the pleadings whether the plaintiffs had consented to the admitted breach of the covenant had not been decided by the Court. Upon this point I may at once say that it is plain that the plaintiffs never consented to the breach of Clause 10. The Court below did not decide the point because in the view which it took of the case it was unnecessary to decide it. In his answer the respondent alleged that he was employed by the appellants as dispensing chemist and that his actions could not be restrained when in any other capacity and that respondent

ent had nothing to do with the manufacture of soda water by Messrs. Moalle. Further, that the breach if any was of unreasonable portions of the contract. The law with regard to this sort of covenant is now fairly well defined. There was a time when such agreements were considered *prima facie* void as in restraint of trade, but if the covenant could show that the covenant was given for sufficient consideration and that under the circumstances of the case it was reasonable it was held valid. Afterwards the Courts held that they would not investigate the adequacy of the consideration. The rule at present appears to be that if the covenant is not more extensive than is reasonably necessary for the protection of the covenantee notwithstanding its generality it will be enforced. In the present case it would seem reasonable that the plaintiffs should frame and enforce a covenant which would prevent an employé of theirs in Amoy from joining a firm of that port which competed with them seriously in any important branch of their business. It appears from the evidence, and is indeed a matter of general knowledge to the residents in the Treaty Ports of China that an important branch of Messrs. Watson & Co.'s business is the manufacture of aerated waters. From the fact that Messrs. Moalle & Co. are described in their own expresses as "Wine and Spirit merchants, aerated water manufacturers, etc." it seems to me plain that this firm compete with Messrs. Watson & Co. in this important branch of their business. In the same express they state that they have manufactured aerated waters in Amoy for 20 years, and that their sale increases. From this I think it is plain that they compete seriously. It is difficult to understand why a firm of stevedores, if they intended to continue to make that the principal branch of their business, should engage as their general manager a pharmaceutical chemist who cannot have had any experience as a stevedore. It would seem that whatever their business has hitherto been they now intended to devote themselves very seriously to the aerated water manufactory in which the defendant's experience at Amoy would be of material help to them.

I do not think that the number of trades from which the plaintiffs seek to debar the defendant from carrying on or joining in carrying on in Amoy is of itself sufficient to make the covenant void. It must always be a question whether the trades, however numerous they are, form substantial portions of the covenantee's business. I take it that the trades of wine merchants and aerated water manufacturers are substantial portions of the business of Messrs. Watson & Co., and from Exhibits S. and J. it is also plain that these branches are substantial portions of Messrs. Moalle's business. Messrs. Moalle also seem to sell Bovril, Meat Juice, Liebig's, Extracts, &c., all articles which are commonly dealt in by chemists. There is a very large amount of business which is common to the two firms of Watson & Co. and Moalle & Co. and it seems to me reasonable that Messrs. Watson & Co. should seek to enforce a covenant which undoubtedly in its terms prevents the defendant from joining such a firm. There is no doubt that the defendant covenanted not to join a firm carrying on the business of aerated water manufacturers or wine spirit and cigar merchants and there is no doubt he has committed a breach of this covenant. The only reason there can be for not enforcing the covenant is that it would be against public policy to do so. I do not think that it is—for it is to be observed that the public are more concerned to see that solemn contracts are adhered to than to see that the individual liberty of this defendant is not interfered with. I am very unwilling to come to a conclusion on what is principally a matter of fact from the Court below, but the assessors differed in opinion and the question is one which does not depend on the demeanour of witnesses, but on the inferences to be drawn from admitted or proved facts. As I have no doubt in my mind that the covenant as it is sought to be enforced is not more extensive than is reasonably necessary for the protection of the plaintiffs I feel bound to enforce it. The result will be that the judgment, order and decree of the Lower Court will be set aside with costs here and in the Court below. In the original petition a claim is made for a certain sum as

damages and for further or other relief. I think that the justice of the case will be met by an injunction against the defendant continuing in the employ of Messrs. Moalle & Co. or any other way acting contrary to such terms of the agreement of the 9th of February, 1888, as are still in force. The exact terms of the injunction should be drawn up by the plaintiffs and submitted to me in Chambers and it should be so framed as to allow the plaintiffs to enforce their claim for liquidated damages should the defendant disregard the injunction.

HONGKONG.

H.E. the Governor's assent to the St. John's Cathedral Ordinance is gazetted.

New rules with reference to petroleum in bulk are published in the *Gazette*.

Herr Heinze, the German Vice-Consul at Hongkong, has been appointed Consul at Tamsui.

There were 1,298 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 123 were Europeans.

A charge is in future to be made for the interception of postal matter, \$1 for matter arriving by any particular mail, and \$5 per month.

H. E. Lai-Wing-Iu, late Chinese Consul General in Cuba, left on 4th April by the *Yuen-sang* for Manila to take up his duties as Consul-General in the Philippine Islands.

Consequent upon the departure of Sir John Carrington the Hon. W. M. Goodman has been appointed Acting Chief Justice and the Hon. H. E. Pollock Acting Attorney-General.

The return of the number of cases of communicable diseases notified as occurring in the colony last week is as follows:—Bubonic plague, 7 cases, 7 deaths; smallpox, 4 cases, 1 death.

On Monday an Indian was jumping off the ferry launch at Kowloon before she was properly moored, when he slipped and was caught between the launch and the wharf and badly crushed.

On Sunday afternoon a private in the Welsh Regiment, named John Horgan, fell over the verandah at the Barracks in Queen's road and fractured his skull so seriously that he died on the following day.

The Hongkong Football Club have handed \$74.70 to the Treasurer of the Hongkong Football Challenge Shield, this sum being the balance over expenditure resulting from the sale of seats in the Grand Stand at the final on March 25th last.

H. M. S. *Narcissus*, which left on Saturday morning for England, was obliged to return to port after six hours' steaming owing to one of her discharge pipes bursting. Fortunately no one was injured. The vessel has gone into dock to have the defect made good.

Before leaving for home on the 5th April the Chief Justice (Sir John Carrington) met the whole of the staff of the Registry and the Land Office in his Chambers at the Supreme Court and bade them *au revoir*, they in return wishing him *bon voyage*.

We are informed by Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son, General Managers of Oliver's Freehold Mines, Limited, that they have received the following telegram giving the result of the Eureka Mine clean-up for the month of March—"675 tons crushed for a yield of 350 ounces smelted gold."

On the 6th April the remains of Sergeant Coutts, who had been a popular member of the Hongkong Police Force for the last ten years, were interred in the Happy Valley in the presence of many of his late comrades. The Sergeant, who was only 34 years of age, died in Hospital, where he had been for three weeks, peritonitis being the cause of death.

Sir John and Lady and Miss Carrington left for home on the 5th April, Sir John by the Canadian-Pacific route and Lady and Miss Carrington by the P. & O. steamer *Formosa*. The best wishes of the community will accompany the popular Chief Justice and his family, and a hearty welcome will await them on their return.

The Acting Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises us that he has received the following telegram from the Mines giving the result of the March Clean up—"The mill ran 29 days, crushing 3,300 tons yielding 211 oz. of smelted gold. The bullion realised by cyaniding is estimated to value £80 sterling."

The *Futami Maru* which arrived in Hongkong on 4th April is making her first trip to Australia. She is the fastest vessel owned by Nippon Yusen Kaisha, being built specially for Government requirements as well as for the Australian mail contract. She steams 18 knots, the contract being for 17. She has accommodation for 45 first-class passengers, 35 seconds, and 160 steerage.

The *Singapore Free Press* of the 27th March says:—The two sister ships of the P. & O. Company on the mail line between Colombo and Shanghai, the *Parramatta* and the *Ballaarat*, are making a name for themselves for speed. On Wednesday afternoon the *Parramatta* made the run from Hongkong in 4 days and 3 hours, and on Saturday afternoon the *Ballaarat* arrived with the English mail of the 3rd March, making the run from Colombo in 6 days and from Penang under 30 hours.

The Bishop of Victoria and the Colonial Secretary, trustees of the Sharp Legacy Fund, have presented a balance sheet and statement of the apportionment of the Fund amongst the several Protestant charitable institutions in the colony in accordance with the powers conferred upon them by the will of the late Mr. Edmund Sharp. The balance in the Bank on 4th April was \$5,258.33, and this amount has been apportioned as follows:—Victoria Home, \$600; Diocesan Girl's School and Orphanage, \$600; Berlin Foundling Home, \$600; Baxter Mission, \$600; Ladies' Benevolent Society, \$500; Alice Memorial Hospital, \$500; Kowloon Institute, \$500; Star Coffee House, \$500; Soldiers' and Sailors' Institute, \$430; Diocesan Boys' School and Orphanage, \$428.33.

At the Magistracy on the 6th April Mr. T. Sercombe Smith made an observation of some interest to ricksha owners. Mr. J. J. Spooner was driving along Bonham Strand in a public ricksha when a private ricksha occupied by a Chinaman came along in the opposite direction. The Chinaman was on the wrong side of the road, and in swerving across to his right side caught Mr. Spooner's ricksha and upset it, Mr. Spooner being thrown into the road. On regaining his feet he seized the Chinaman and his coolie and handed them over to the police. Mr. Smith, in advising the owner to pay the fine of \$10, said he ought to have been in the coolie's place, as he considered the owner to be responsible for his coolie being on the wrong side of the road.

The *Singapore Free Press* of the 25th March says:—On March 15th the Straits Government, in consequence of a slight recrudescence of plague, imposed nine days' quarantine on vessels arriving from Hongkong. Yet vessels that left that port on the 17th had no notification of the declaration of quarantine. The result is that they came down at ordinary speed, burning the usual quantity of coal. Two of them, the *Propontis*, Capt. Crawford, and the *Catherine Apcar*, Capt. Olifent, are lying out at the quarantine station till the expiry of nine days. The former has seven hundred coolies on board, kicking their heels in idleness at the expense of the owners. Against the strict enforcement of the quarantine regulations nothing, of course, is to be said, but considering the trouble and the loss caused to trade, the least that could be done would be to give full notice to all vessels coming to the port. We do not know where the fault lies in this instance, but as we know the Straits Government took pains to give full notification here, we assume that a telegram was despatched to Hongkong, in which case the fault lies at the other end. The telegram from Singapore, dated 15th March, notifying the imposition of quarantine, was published in the *Government Gazette* dated nominally 18th March but appearing actually on Sunday, the 19th, and it was repeated in the *Daily Press* of Monday, the 20th, which was practically the first public intimation on the subject. It would seem to be a duty incumbent on the Government to make information of this nature public immediately upon its receipt. The question will no doubt engage the attention of the Chamber of Commerce.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Peking and Tientsin Times* hears that Mr. T. H. Kingsley, of Shanghai, has been appointed Superintendent of the Chinese-Engineering and Mining Co.'s Fleet, and Chief Agent of the Company's various agencies.

The landed property at Canton of Kang Yu-wei was seized by the local Government under orders from Peking and was sold, but the purchasers have been told to await further instructions before entering into possession.

"The Moralist" writes in the *Straits Times*:—Sir Charles Mitchell made a quiet protest at the Cathedral on Sunday morning last just as the choir and clergy, headed by the elevated cross, were filing down the central aisle to the vestry. The Governor was just entering by the side door in order to participate in the nine o'clock service when his eye lighted on the cross. Disapproval and determination were writ large on his countenance as he turned back to the door and waited until the procession had reached the vestry. It was the cross which, I am informed, was the disapproved feature of the procession and which has been the cause of His Excellency's disapproval in the past. A good many of the congregation, it is said, share His Excellency's feelings. And is it a matter of wonder that they do? Is there any Churchman who can honestly tell you that a cross carried in front makes him one iota the holier? It would be quite interesting if the congregation could be got to ballot on the subject, and the "Moralist" would lay long odds on the winner.

The *Manila Times* of the 28th March says:—The United States gunboat *Yorktown* steamed into the bay yesterday evening with another captured steamer following in her wake. This latter was the Spanish steamer *Mundara*, owned by Mendezona & Co., of this place. She was captured off the Gulf of Lingayen (which is situated about 240 miles north of here and on the west side of Luzon) after a stiff chase of over two hours. When first sighted by the *Yorktown* the *Mundara* was just entering the mouth of the gulf, but upon those on board of her perceiving the gunboat, she was immediately turned about and headed for the open sea under a full head of steam. The *Yorktown* gave chase and fired two blanks at her and was about to send a six-pounder across her bow when she hauled to. After having been brought to a guard of marines was placed on board and she was brought here under her own steam and manned by her own crew. This morning she was brought into the river and tied up alongside the seized steamer *Toning*, a guard from the 23rd Infantry Regiment relieving the marines. When coming up the river the Spanish flag was flying over the stern, and that of America was unfurled to the breeze from the foremast. The *Mundara* is a new and very fast boat, having only been built last year in Hongkong, and the crew of the *Yorktown* acknowledge that she led them a speedy chase for over two hours before being brought to. Our contemporary does not state what the vessel was doing to cause her seizure, but presumably she was committing an infringement of the blockade regulations.

CA TON, 31st March.—Macao Congous.—The case is being unusually late, no New Tens have as yet arrived.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

	1898-99	1897-98
	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai...	12,230,663	15,099,727
Foochow	12,976,578	12,607,188
Amoy	688,318	685,651
Canton	6,149,722	5,889,288
	31,044,281	34,281,854

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1898-99	1897-98
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai	16,621,647	20,836,000
Amoy	15,036,113	15,861,506
Foochow	9,178,280	7,740,345
	40,836,240	43,437,845

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA

	1898-99	1897-98
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow...	22,783,273	19,462,293

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1898-99	1897-98
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	25,770,890	28,730,512
Kobe	13,658,368	15,602,288
	39,429,258	44,332,800

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 1st April.—(From Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Circular).—The Home markets remain steady at last quotations. Raw Silk.—Very little has been doing in old silk. Contracts are reported in new season's silk to extent of 1,500 bales on the basis of Gold Killing at Tls. 510 at 605 Bird Chuanling Tls. 600, and Tls. 610 for White Kahing Gold Lily Flower and Gr Kahing Gold Goose. Yellow Silk.—A very small business doing. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, March 25th to 30th, are: 502 bales White, 62 bales Yellow and 313 bales Wild Silk. Re-Reels and Filatures.—About 50 bales have changed hands at quotations below. Steam Filatures.—150 bales are reported sold on basis of Tls. 830/540 for First choice 10/12. The Export of Steam Filatures bales to date is: 3,475 bales to Continent, 2,540 bales to America, and 144 bales to England. The Export to date is some 2,600 bales less than export to same date last year. Wild Silk.—About 60 bales have been sold. The arrivals are rather heavy and consist of deliveries against contracts made in January. Waste Silk.—Nothing doing except in Tussah Waste, of which 900 piculs have been settled at Tls. 26/26½ for 60 per cent. No. 1, 40 per cent. No. II. Pongees.—Very little doing. Shantung 33/84 by 19/19½ by 38/39 oz. are reported at Tls. 8.75.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1898-99	1897-98
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	57,546	47,450
Canton	28,862	21,099
Yokohama	18,779	18,068
	105,187	86,617

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1898-99	1897-98
	bales	bales.
Shanghai	9,405	11,805
Canton	9,360	11,163
Yokohama	26,738	3,351
	45,803	53,319

CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG, 7th April.—The market continues firm and there has been a further slight improvement in prices. Quotations for Formosa are \$70.00 to \$70.50. Sales 200 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 7th April.—The advance in price continues. Quotations are:—Shekloong, No. 1, White...\$7.90 to \$7.95 pol. do. " 2, White... 7.35 to 7.40 " Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... 5.25 to 5.30 " do. " 2, Brown... 5.15 to 5.20 " Swatow, No. 1, White... 7.80 to 7.85 " do. " 1, White... 7.25 to 7.30 " Swatow, No. 1, Brown... 5.05 to 5.10 " do. " 2, Brown... 4.95 to 5.00 " Foochow Sugar Candy.....11.65 to 11.87 " Shekloong "10.65 to 11.00 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per P. & O. steamer *Manila*, sailed on the 3rd March. For Manchester:—1 case blackwood tables. For London:—2 cases cigars and 1 case sundries from Manila, 509 chests tea from Foochow, 193 rolls matting, 169 bales feathers, 100 cases Chinaware, 169 cases blackwoodware, 71 cases curios, 2 cases silk, 37 cases private effects, 107 cases and 5 cases preserves, 2 packages rattanware, and 29 packages sundries.

Per steamer *Glengarry*, sailed on the 15th March. For London:—5,637 bales hemp, 197 bales waste silk, 143 cases soy, 10 cases wood oil, 5 cases feathers, 5 cases bristles, and 15 packages sundries.

Per P. & O. steamer *Parramatta*, sailed on the 18th March. For New York:—8 packages silver ware, 1 package silk embroideries, and 1 package documents. For Manchester:—50 bales waste silk. For London:—65 bales raw silk, 9 cases silkpiece goods, 1 case jade stone vases, and 1 case C. wood chests and curios. For France:—480 bales raw silk, 2 cases silk piece goods, and 7 packages hair.

Per steamer *Caledonien*, sailed on the 25th March. For France:—541 raw silk, 9 cases silks, 263 packages tea, 4 packages human hair, 18 cases paper, 50 cases aniseed, 2 cases feathers, 70 bundles canes, 323 bundles bamboo-ware, and 125 bales waste silk. For Zurich:—10 bales raw silk. For London:—12 packages baggage.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 7th April.—Bengal.—A fair amount of business has been done during the past week and the market closes steady at the following rates:—Old Patna \$845, New Benares \$830, and Old Benares \$855.

Malwa.—This market has been quiet and very few sales have taken place. Old qualities only have been in good demand. Closing quotations are:—

New Malwa \$700 with all'ce from 1 to 3 catty. Old (2 yrs.) \$740 " " 1 to 2½ " " (3/4 ") \$770 " " to 2½ " " (5/6 ") \$820 " " to 3½ " " (7/8 ") \$860 " " to 2½ "

Persian.—There has been very little doing in this drug, quotations for which close at \$550 to \$650 for Oily and \$650 to \$750 for Paper-tied.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—
Old Patna..... 1,718 chests.
Old Benares 77 "
New Benares 207 "
Malwa 690 "
Persian 1,200 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1899.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
April 1	—	842½	822½	850	700	—
April 2	—	842½	822½	850	700	—
April 3	—	842½	822½	850	700	—
April 4	—	842½	822½	855	700	—
April 5	—	842½	830	855	700	—
April 6	—	842½	830	855	700	—
April 7	—	845	830	855	700	—

RICE.

HONGKONG, 7th April.—Heavy rain having fallen and greatly improved the crop prospects prices have fallen. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary..... \$2.40 to 2.45
" Round, good quality..... 2.75 to 2.80
" Long 3.05 to 3.10
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 1 3.05 to 3.10
" Garden, No. 1 3.15 to 3.20
" White 3.65 to 3.70
" Fine Cargo 3.85 to 3.90

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 7th April.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—*Bombay Yarn*.—50 bales No. 8 at \$70.50, 1,500 bales No. 10 at \$66.50 to \$81.50, 1,200 bales No. 12 at \$62 to \$82, 450 bales No. 16 at \$80 to \$84, 950 bales No. 20 at \$81 to \$90. *White Shirtings*.—1,000 pieces, 600 at \$4.42½, 150 pieces Gold Tiger at \$6.10, 300 pieces Gold Tiger at \$6.10, 400 pieces Blue Lion at \$5.95, 500 pieces Gold Elephant at \$3.90. *Grey Shirtings*.—300 pieces 8½ lbs B Joss No. 2 at \$2.96, 300 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue J. No. 2 at \$2.96. *T. Cloths*.—600 pieces 8 lbs. Mex. V V at \$3. *Bengal Cotton*.—50 bales 50 lbs. at \$17.75, 70 bales 50 lbs. at \$16.50. *Camlets*.—50 pieces Scarlet Tiger Chop at \$14.

METALS.—*Yellow Metals*.—30 cases No. 10/14 at \$41.65, 50 piculs Old at \$22. *Iron*.—672 piculs English round at \$4.55.

COTTON YARN. per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s..... 61.00 to 92.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24..... 101.00 to 108.00
" 22 to 24..... 106.00 to 110.00
" 28 to 32..... 114.00 to 120.00
" 38 to 42..... 125.00 to 131.00

PIECE GOODS. per piece
Grey Shirtings—6lbs. 1.70 to 1.80
7lbs. 1.92 to 2.00
8.4 lbs. 2.35 to 3.10
9 to 10 lbs 3.25 to 4.05

White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.30 to 2.50
58 to 60 " 2.70 to 3.35
64 to 66 " 3.50 to 4.25
Fine 4.35 to 7.05
Book-folds. 3.75 to 5.65
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ... 0.66 to 1.35
T. Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y. 1.52 to 1.72
7lbs. (32 ") " 1.85 to 2.10
6lbs. (32 ") Mexs. 1.62 to 1.82
7lbs. (32 ") " 2.10 to 2.75
8 to 8.4 oz. (36 in.) 2.35 to 3.20
Drills, English—40 yds., 14 to 16lbs 3.65 to 6.35

FANCY COTTONS

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8lbs. 1.60 to 4.75
Brocades—Dyed 3.00 to — per yard
Damasks 0.12 to 0.16
Chintzes—Assorted 0.08 to —
Velvets—Black, 22 in. 0.19 to 0.40
Velveteens—18 in. 0.17 to 0.18 per dozen
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.25 to 1.25

WOOLLENS

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops. 0.60 to 1.50 per yard
German — to —
Habit, Med. and Broad Cloths. 1.00 to 2.25 per piece
Long Ells—Scarlet 6.25 to 9.50
Assorted 6.85 to 9.60
Camlets—Assorted 12.00 to 32.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted } 9.00 to 20.00
Orleans—Plain 7.50 to 9.00 per pair
Blankets—8 to 12lbs. 3.50 to 14.00

METALS

Iron—Nail Rod 4.20 to — per picul
Square, Flat Round Bar ... 4.25 to —
Swedish Bar 6.10 to —
Small Round Rod 4.60 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in. 5.75 to —
Wire 15/25 9.25 to —
Old Wire Rope 2.50 to —
Lead, L. B. and Hole Chop ... 8.75 to —
Australian 8.75 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz, 14/20 oz. 40.00 to —
Vivian's, 14/20 oz. 40.00 to —
Elliot's, 14/20 oz. 40.00 to —
Composition Nails 75.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs 36.00 to —
Tiles 41.00 to —
Tin — to — per box.
Tin-Plates 6.25 to — per cwt. case
Steel ½ to 1 5.75 to —

SUNDRIES

Quicksilver 141.00 to — per picul
Window Glass 5.40 to — per box
Kerosene Oil 2.10 to — per 10-gal. case

SHANGHAI, 1st April.—(From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report.)—*Piece Goods*.—Broken into by the Easter holidays the week under review has been quite devoid of anything of interest in our market, the daily transactions reported being of very small proportions and scarcely worthy of notice. The trouble is the Northern markets, in fact all the distributing centres, have received full supplies of goods that were brought at lowest point, and the vendors of the same, being satisfied with modest profits, have not allowed prices to attain the level of those now ruling here, or what the goods could be replaced at, which naturally has upset the calculations of the dealers here who have had to replace their sales at enhanced prices. Importers cannot afford to make any concessions in face of the strong position of the home markets, and the result is almost a deadlock, as the dealers do not care to increase their already heavy holdings until there is a fair prospect of being able to place them at covering rates. The only encouraging advice received during the interval is that the goods are moving more freely from Tientsin now, the transport having been much impeded at first by the want of water in the creeks. From Newchwang we have heard of no special advices beyond that there is a good demand for low-class American Sheetings. Ningpo and the River markets continue disappointingly quiet, at the close, however, clearances are improving, but we are unable to locate a special demand from any particular quarter. The Auctions have monopolised the market here this week, and, all things considered, were not attended with altogether unsatisfactory

results as regards Cotton goods, although the previous week's prices were scarcely maintained in some instances. For Woollens, however, the reverse was the case, prices still continuing to decline. The market for Yarns is very slack, prices gradually drooping for all spinnings. The limit price fixed for Cotton last week by the Mill Owner's Association was Tls. 13.25 for best steam machine ginned, but nothing appears to have been done under Tls. 13.70, while at the close the market is firmer owing to purchases for the outports at rather better prices.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 7th April.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer 1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand 1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight 1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight 1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight 1/11½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 1/11½

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand 2.46½
Credits, at 4 months' sight 2.50

ON GERMANY.—

On demand 2.00

ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand 47½
Credits, 60 days' sight 48½

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer 146½
Bank, on demand 147

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer 146½
Bank, on demand 147

ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight 73
Private, 30 days' sight 74

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand 4½ % pm.

ON MANILA.—

On demand 1½ % pm.

ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand 1½ % pm.

SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Ruying Rate... 10.09

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael... 53.00

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 7th April.—As business during the Easter holidays was entirely suspended and only resumed on the 4th there is but little to report in the share market.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have changed hands in small lots at 271 and 270 per cent. prem., but sellers at the latter rate rule the market at time of closing. Nationals are still enquired for at \$20½ to \$21.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have been on offer at \$62 without sales. Unions and Cantons unchanged and without business. Straits have been negotiated at quotation. The Northern Insurances continue quiet and without any local business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires have found buyers at \$297½ and close steady at that. China Fires have declined to \$81 after small sales at that rate and at \$80.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have ruled in some demand and have changed hands at \$29, \$29½, and \$29½; at time of closing the stock is still in request at \$29½, but is obtainable at \$30. Indos have been dealt in to a fair extent at \$69 cash, \$69½ for 30th inst., and at \$70 and \$71 for May; a demand forward still exists. Douglasses continue quiet with sellers and no sales at \$57. China Mutuals and China Manilas unchanged and without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been negotiated in small lots at \$171 and \$172, market closing with sellers at \$171. Luzons, a small sale has been effected at \$49.

MINING.—Punjoms have been in some request and shares have changed hands in small lots at \$5, \$5.10, and \$5.25, market closing steady with buyers at \$5.30. Charbonnages continue in request without bringing shares on the market. Jebebus have been in demand in the South, but few shares have changed hands. Great Easterns have changed hands at \$3.75 and \$3.50, closing at \$3.70. Queens and Olivers have been neglected and without business.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have continued very firm, small buyers still remaining unsatisfied; a few shares have changed hands at 328 per

cent. and 330 per cent. prem. cash and at 330 per cent. for 15th instant. Kowloon Wharves have advanced without sales to \$87, the sudden rise being attributable to the commencement of the survey of the proposed Kowloon-Canton railway route. New Amoy Docks have found buyers at \$15 ex div. and more shares are probably obtainable at that rate. Wanchais unchanged and without business.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands after small sales at \$78½ and \$79 close quieter at the former rate. Hotels remain steady at \$78 to \$79, but without business. West Points have found small buyers at \$28, and Humphreys Estates at \$9.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkongs have found buyers at \$85 and close steady at that rate. In the absence of local business in the Shanghai Mills quotations are taken from the last Shanghai circulars.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have ruled firmer at \$22½ with no sellers. Watsons have changed hands at \$13½, \$13.75, and \$14, closing steady at last rate. Lees have found small buyers at \$112, Campbell and Moores at \$11, and Providents at \$9.25 to \$9.40.

Closing quotations are as follows—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS
Banks—		(\$461½, sellers)
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	269 p. t. prem., =
China & Japan, prf.	\$5	nominal
Do. ordinary	\$4	\$1, sales
Do. deferred	\$1	\$5.5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	\$8	\$21, buyers
Foun. Shares...	\$1	\$21, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A....	\$1	nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$11, sellers
China Prov. L. & M...	\$10	\$9.40, buyers
China Sugar	\$100	\$171, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo.....	Tls. 100	Tls. 78
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 82½
Laou Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100	Tls. 84½
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 400
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 55
Hongkong	\$100	\$5, sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$4, sellers
Fenwick & Co., Geo....	\$25	\$34, buyers
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$23, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$31
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	\$10	\$126, buyers
Hongkong Electric ...	\$10	\$12, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$142½, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$78
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$112, sal. & sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G....	\$50	\$87
Hongkong Rope.....	\$50	\$170
H. & W. Dock	\$125	330, p. t. prem., =
Insurances—		(\$537½, buyers)
Canton.....	\$50	\$142½, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$81
China Traders'	\$25	\$62, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$29½, sal. & buyers
North-China	\$25	Tls. 184, buyers
Straits	\$20	\$44, sales & sellers
Union	\$50	\$230
Yangtze	\$60	\$120, sellers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv	\$50	\$78½, sellers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$9, sales
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$21, buyers
West Point Building	\$40	\$28, sales & sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$49, sales
Mining—		
Charbonnages.....	100s. 500	\$150, sales
Gt. Estn. & O'donian	\$5	\$3.20, buyers
Jebeu	\$5	\$9, sellers
Queens Mines Id....	25c.	60 cts.
Oliver's Mines, A....	\$5	\$6, seller
Do. B.....	\$3½	\$5.10, sellers
Punjom	\$5	\$5.30, buyers
Do. Preference.	\$1	\$1.50, sales & b.
Raubs	14s. 10d.	\$60½, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$15, sales & sellers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila...	\$50	\$77½, sellers
China Mutual Pref.	\$10	\$9, 15s., buyers
Do. Ordinary	\$10	\$4, 10s., buyers
Do. Do.	\$5	\$2, 10s., buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$57, sellers
H., Canton and M...	\$15	\$30, sellers
Indo-China S. N. ...	\$10	\$69, sellers
Star Ferry	\$7½	\$13, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co. ...	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do.	\$2	\$3, sellers
United Asbestos	\$2	\$1.50, buyers
Do.	\$10	\$10, nominal
Wanchai Warehouse...	\$37½	\$39½
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$14, buyers

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 3rd April.—(From Messrs J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report).—The March settlement and the Easter holidays have interfered with business. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—One or two small lots of shares were sold for cash at 270 per cent. premium. Marine Insurance.—In Hongkong, Unions changed hands at \$230, and China Traders' shares at \$63. The latter are now obtainable at \$62. Straits changed hands in Singapore at \$4, and are offering here at \$4½. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas were placed at Tls. 4½ and Tls. 50. Mining.—Jebeu Mining and Trading shares are offering at \$9. Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Shanghai Engineering and Dock Preference shares changed hands at Tls. 101. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares have been placed at Tls. 133½ to Tls. 135. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares are wanted at Tls. 80, but are held for higher rates. Industrial.—Major Brothers shares changed hands at Tls. 4½ ex div. In Cotton Mill shares business was done: E-wos at Tls. 78, International at Tls. 82½, and Laou-kung-mows at Tls. 85/8½. Loans.—Country Club 6 per cent. Debentures were sold at Tls. 95.

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 3rd April (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report).—Our homeward freight market has undergone no change since last writing on the 20th ultimo. Cargo is obtainable in dribbling quantities only, the principal support to steamers coming from outposts. Coastwise.—Trade with northern ports is now in full swing again, though but a feeble demand exists in Japan for Newchwang produce, owing to serious losses last season. Our quotations in this direction are Japanese fixtures, so cannot be taken as local business. Rates of freight are:—London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 45s.; Northern Continental ports, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 45s.; New York via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Baltimore via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 52s. 6d.; waste silk 55s.; tea 57s. 6d.; Konigsberg via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Manchester, by Conference Lines, general cargo 52s. 6d.; waste silk 55s.; tea 57s. 6d.; Liverpool, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Hamburg, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 45s.; Havre, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 45s. Above rates are subject to a deferred rebate, as per Conference circular. Genoa, by Conference Lines, tallow 36s. net, general cargo 36s. net, waste silk 38s. 6d. net, tea 4½s. 6d. net; Marseilles, by Conference Lines, tallow 36s. net, general cargo 36s. net, waste silk 38s. 6d. net, tea 4½s. 6d. net. 35s. per ton of 20 cwt. net for above three ports. New York, by sail, 19s. New York via Pacific, 1 gold cent per lb. tea, 6 cents per lb. silk, \$10 per ton strawbrad. New York via Suez, 27s. 6d. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 27s. 6d. for tea, all net. Boston, 35s. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 40s. for tea, all net. Philadelphia, 35s. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 40s. for tea, all net. Coast rates.—Mojito to Shanghai \$2 per ton coal, nominal; Nagasaki to Shanghai \$2 per ton coal, nominal; Newchwang to Kobe 25 sen; Newchwang to Nagasaki 20 sen; Newchwang to Swatow 35 cents; Newchwang to Amoy 35 cents; Newchwang to Whampoa 38 cents; Newchwang to Canton 38 cents; Wuhu and Chinkiang to Canton 22 cands.; to Amoy 20 cands.; to Swatow 20 cands.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Pyrrhus (str.), Bengal (str.), Kanagawa Maru (str.), Sado Maru (str.).
For BREMEN.—Prinz Heinrich (str.).
For MARSEILLES.—Yarra (str.), Kanagawa Maru (str.), Sado Maru (str.).
For HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Babelsberg (str.), Serbia (str.), Savoia (str.), Konegsberg (str.).
For HAVRE AND AMSTERDAM.—Nurnburg (str.).
For SAN FRANCISCO.—Gaelic (str.), Hongkong Maru (str.), Queen Margaret, Carmarthenshire (str.), City of Peking (str.).
For VANCOUVER.—Empress of India (str.).
For VICTORIA, B.C., AND TACOMA.—Victoria (str.).
For PORTLAND, O., Columbia (str.).
For NEW YORK.—Liv (str.).
For AUSTRALIA.—Tsinar (str.).
For STRAITS AND CALCUTTA.—Kohinor (str.).
For THURSDAY ISLAND.—Futami Maru (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

ARRIVALS.

March—
31, Tordenskjold, Norw. ftr., from Saigon.
31, Chingwo, British str., from Shanghai.
31, Ballarat, British str., from Bombay.
31, Erik Rickmers, Ger. ship, from N. York.
31, Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.

April—

1, Fushun, Chinese str., from Canton.
1, Kohinor, British str., from Calcutta.
1, Godaverey, French str., from Saigon.
1, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
1, Kyoto Maru, Japanese str., from Saigon.
1, Clara, German str., from Hoihow.
1, Keongwai, British str., from Bangkok.
1, Picciola, German str., from Saigon.
1, Mongkut, British str., from Saigon.
1, Tategami Maru, Jap. str., from Nagasaki.
1, Bucephalus, British str., from Samarang.
2, Shinonome, Japanese torpedo-boat destroyer, from London.
2, Nanyang, German str., from Taiwanfoo.
2, Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.
2, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
2, Andania, German str., from Hamburg.
2, Dr. Hans Jurg Kier, Norw. str., from Swatow.
2, Kiangnan, Chinese str., from Canton.
3, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
3, P. C. C. Klao, British str., from Bangkok.
3, Formosa, British str., from Yokohama.
3, Pronqa, German str., from Swatow.
3, Jacob Diedrichsen, Ger. str., from Swatow.
3, Loyal, German str., from Hongay.
3, Sendai Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
4, Carmarthenshire, British str., from Moji.
4, Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
4, Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., from Bremen.
4, Futami Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
4, Benlmond, British str., from Saigon.
4, Cerberus, British str., from Bangkok.
4, Kara, British str., from Singapore.
5, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
5, Promethus, British str., from Shanghai.
5, Taksang, British str., from Chefoo.
5, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
5, Afridi, Brit. str., from Barry & Colombo.
5, Savoia, German str., from Hamburg.
5, Tritos, German str., from Saigon.
5, Deuteros, German str., from Saigon.
5, Dagmar, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
5, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
5, Diamante, British str., from London.
5, Machew, British str., from Bangkok.
5, Toyo Maru, Japanese str., from Saigon.
6, Marie Jebson, German str., from Saigon.
6, Chunsang, British str., from Amoy.
6, Guthrie, British str., from Sydney.
6, Orestes, British str., from Liverpool.
6, Sishan, British str., from Saigon.
6, Shini Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
6, Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.
7, Lyeemgon, German str., from Shanghai.
7, Germania, German str., from Saigon.
7, Loosok, British str., from Bangkok.
7, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
7, Ancona, British str., from Bombay.
7, Bankuko Maru, Jap. str., from Keelung.
7, Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
7, Yarra French str., from Shanghai.
7, Ingrabon, German str., from Saigon.
7, Taiwan Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
7, Pronto, Norw. str., from Bangkok.

March—

DEPARTURES.

31, Haiching, British str., for Amoy.
31, Taicheong, German str., for Amoy.
31, Chowtai, British str., for Swatow.
31, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
31, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
31, Choysang, British str., for Shanghai.

April—

1, Chusan, British str., for Europe.
1, Ballarat, British str., for Shanghai.
1, Rosetta, British str., for Yokohama.
1, Menmuir, British str., for Sydney.
1, Kashing, British str., for Shanghai.
1, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
1, Olympia, British str., for Tacoma.
1, Amerigo Vespucci, Italian cr., for Chefoo.
1, Iris, British bark, for Freemantle.
2, Maidura Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
2, Hoihao, French str., for Hoihow.
2, Siam, British str., for Swatow.

- 2, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
- 2, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
- 3, Chingwo, British str., for London.
- 3, Fushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 3, Szechuen, British str., for Takow.
- 3, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
- 3, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 4, Clio, British str., for Hoihow.
- 4, Elise, German str., for Bangkok.
- 4, Nanyang, German str., for Swatow.
- 4, Wongkol, British str., for Hoihow.
- 4, Mazagon, British str., for Kobe.
- 4, Aztec, Hawaiian str., for San Francisco.
- 4, Suisang, British str., for Calcutta.
- 5, Empress of China, Brit. str., for V'couver.
- 5, Kiangnan, Chinese str., for Chefoo.
- 5, Pronto, German str., for Swatow.
- 5, Phra Nang, British str., for Swatow.
- 5, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
- 5, Shinonome, Japanese torpedo-boat destroyer, for Yokosuka.
- 5, Andalusia, German str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Formosa, British str., for London.
- 5, Doc Hermanos, Amr. str., for Manila.
- 5, Michael Jebsen, German str., for V'stock.
- 5, Tategami Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
- 5, Yedo Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
- 5, Taksang, British str., for Canton.
- 5, Hohenzollern, German str., for Yokohama.
- 5, Prinz Heinrich, German str., for Shanghai.
- 6, Irene, German cruiser, for Foochow.
- 6, Hailong, British str., for Swatow.
- 6, Pegasus, British bark, for P. Townsend.
- 6, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
- 6, Kyoto Maru, Jap. str., for Saigon.
- 6, Taisang, British str., for Canton.
- 6, Dr Hans Jurg Kier, Norw. str., for Apari.
- 6, Mongkut, British str., for Singapore.
- 7, Picciola, German str., for Amoy.
- 7, Savoia, German str., for Yokohama.
- 7, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
- 7, Bucephalus, British str., for Saigon.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Kohinur*, from Calcutta, Mr. Gregory Apcar, Mr. Graham, Mr. and Mrs. Sherman, Misses Logan, Embleton and Calder, Mr. Michael; from Singapore Mr. Mrs. and Miss White, Mr. L. R. Ellison, and 786 Chinese.

Per *Yuensang*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. and Miss Hogg, Mrs. H. S. Hogge, Messrs. E. Bates, E. Thorel, E. Brown, Hemberg, W. Wilcox, J. Collins, S. Horezki, Dr. Page, and Messrs. H. Jeffries, R. Walker, L. McCormack, W. Potzsch, C. Tiongson, F. Tiongson, Oliva Francisco, E. Marquina, C. Caceres, G. Bernia, B. Villareal, P. Tiongson, S. Beray, and G. Johnson.

Per *Ballaarat*, for Hongkong, from Bombay, Messrs Ma Yuen and Ting Sing, Rev. and Miss Abbott and Miss Gordon; for Yokohama, Mr. W. Moxon; for Kobe, Rev. Bruce; for Shanghai, Mr. R. Viccajee and Miss Cartwright. For Hongkong, from Colombo, Mr. R. Munro, Mr. E. Elvin, Sir Richard and Lady Adney, Mr. and Mrs. Percival, Messrs. Weaver and Pearce, Mr. and Mrs. Dickenson and Mr. C. C. Dickenson; from London, Mr. Dalton, Mr. McKinley, Mr. Partington, Mr. Saxon, Mr. and Mrs. Low and Mr. Brown; for Shanghai, Mr. Constantine, Mrs. Binks and child and Mrs. Hosie and child. For Hongkong, from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Wadman and Sir James Poole; for Yokohama, Mr. T. Grant; for Shanghai, Mr. McGregor Grant, Mr. and Mrs. Gardner, Dr. Bushell, Mr. H. Gullan, Mr. W. Kien and Mr. and Mrs. Forrester. For Hongkong, from Brindisi, Lt. J. J. Higgon; from Ismailia, Mr. Bart. Jacob. For Yokohama, from London, Miss Grace Eustace and Miss E. Archdale; from Marseilles, Mr. L. Harrison; for Shanghai, Mr. A. R. Smith; from London, Mr. T. F. Cattley; from Calcutta, Capt. B. Baird. For Yokohama, from London, Mr. and Mrs. Damon; for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Fawcett. For Yokohama from Marseilles, Miss Bevan and maid; from London, Mr. J. Brown and Mr. G. R. Pember; from Ismailia, Mr. Ziegler. For Hongkong, from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Dixon, Mr. R. McCune, Mr. J. E. Hay, Mr. Price and Mr. L. M. Carvalho; for Yokohama, Mr. C. Martens; for Shanghai, Mr. J. Ranger, Mr. F. Oviedo, Mr. H. Finkelstein, Mr. W.

Hernon, Mr. F. H. S. Carington, Mr. H. W. Carington and Mr. G. F. Page. For Hongkong, from Bombay, Mr. and Mrs. Markes; from London, Mr. Ewing; for Yokohama, Mr. Royas and Mr. E. A. Smith Ferguson; for Shanghai, Mr. Speak. For Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mr. T. Black, Misses Davies and Brook (2), Mr. and Mrs. Falconer and Mr. S. W. Cartwright; for Shanghai, Mr. W. and Mrs. Stowell, Mr. W. A. Stowell, Sir Theodore Fry, Mr. C. C. Bigham, Miss Stainton and Mr. D. Leeleboer.

Per *Formosa*, from Yokohama for London, Mrs. Bagbird and child, and Mr. Nesbitt; for Hongkong, Mr. Nisuka Satoka; from Kobe for London, Mr. Weilbach; from Shanghai for London, Mr. Palamountain, Misses Gilmour (3), Master Gilmour and nurse; for Hongkong, Messrs. Bleebguden, Simpson and Nisuka Satoka.

Per *Hailong*, from Tamsui, &c., Messrs. Higuchi and Lee Soo Ping.

Per *Prinz Heinrich*, from Bremen, &c., Dr. F. Gordon, Rev. and Mrs. Rogers, Messrs. O. Tiberii, Julius Behrend, and Lieut. G. E. Rickmann, Mr. and Mrs. Magnus, Mrs. W. R. Bennett, Mr. A. Michalitschke and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Becker and family, Miss Auguste Kloss, Messrs. Rbt. Greuling, G. Brockmann, Douglas Stewart, G. A. Thomas, R. R. Martin, F. Brockmann, Professor Dr. Knuth, Mr. W. John, Mrs. Sutton and family, Messrs. F. Koblenz, Johann Kaiser, Heddrick, H. Vogler, Rudra, Pastor Dr. Schreiber, and Dr. Schreiber, Jun.

Per *Savoia*, from Hamburg, &c., Mr. A. Meyer.

Per *Taisang*, from Shanghai, &c., Messrs. G. W. Lammert and G. W. Bennett.

Per *Diamante*, from London, Mrs. Cobban and family.

Per *Guthrie*, from Australia Mr. and Mrs. Mackenzie, Mr. and Mrs. Misses Brookman, Mr. and Miss Martin, Messrs. Pheby, Wood, Lient. Streatfield, R.N., Mrs. Jackson, Messrs. Huxham and Goldsmid.

DEPARTED.

Per *Ballaarat*, for Shanghai from Hongkong, Consul A. Hosie, Miss Ashton, Miss Greg, Mr. Loo Ching Chuen, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. T. Okamoto, Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Leonard; from London, Mrs. Binks and child, Mrs. Hosie and child, Messrs. T. F. Cattley and Speak; from Marseilles, Mr. McGregor Grant, Mr. and Mrs. Gardner, Dr. Bushell, Messrs. H. F. Gullan, W. Kien, Mr. and Mrs. Forrester, Messrs. A. R. Smith, C. C. Bigham, and D. Leeleboer; from Bombay, Mr. R. Viccajee, Miss Cartwright, and Mr. Constantine; from Singapore, Messrs. F. Oviedo, H. Finkelstein, W. Hernon, F. H. S. Carington, N. W. Carington, and G. F. Page.

Per *Rosetta*, from Hongkong for Nagasaki, Messrs. N. Marao, G. Apcar, and Graham. From Bombay for Kobe, Rev. Bruce. For Yokohama from London, Misses G. Eustace, E. Archdale, Messrs. J. Brown, G. R. Bember, W. Royde, and E. A. S. Ferguson; from Bombay, Mr. W. Moxon; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Dickenson, Mr. C. C. Dickenson; from Marseilles, Messrs. T. Grant, L. Harrison, Miss N. H. Bevan, Mr. T. Black, Miss Davies, Misses Brock (2), Mr. and Mrs. Falconer; from Singapore, Messrs. C. Martens and J. Ranger.

Per *Chusan*, from Hongkong for Singapore, Messrs. D. B. Fullerton, Bremner, and H. W. Bray; for Bombay, Messrs. A. A. Ebrahim, A. M. Dustur, D. D. Talati, and M. Fazulally; for Brindisi, Mr. and Mrs. Brogett and child, Messrs. F. G. Kelson, J. J. Kelson, Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Cowell; for Marseilles, Rev. and Mrs. Stevens, Miss Pearce, Mr. and Mrs. Salvidea and three daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Ormachea and four children; for London, Rear-Admiral Swinton Holland, Mrs. Swinton Holland, 2 Misses Swinton Holland, Master Swinton Holland, Mr. V. H. Lawford, R.N., Mrs. and Miss Underhill, Mr. Underhill, Jr., Messrs. R. Sterling, R.N., Ferguson, E. W. Terry, and R. Moir, Bandmaster Gregory, Mrs. Gregory and five children, Mrs. Parlano, Miss Parlano, Inspector W. F. Ford, Mrs. Ford and two children, Miss Rodger, Mrs. J. L. Wilder, and Mrs. A. M. Rogers. From Yokohama for London, Mr. W. Yatman. From Kobe for London, Mr. D. Robertson. From Shanghai for London, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Clarke and three children, Miss Turner, Rev. and Mrs. R. A. Fernstern and two children, Mr. W. D. B. Goodfellow, and Mrs. Gaskin; for

Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Robertson and child.

Per *Esmeralda*, for Manila, Messrs. J. Putman, H. W. Gye, T. Guerra, Mrs. Kato, Mrs. Cuculla, Messrs. J. S. Campbell, W. Smith, J. Bayos, T. V. Medina, C. F. Davis, Mrs. Van Radesky, Mr. and Mrs. Launder, Messrs. J. W. Butterworth, L. R. Tuttle, Dr. F. H. Bowers, Messrs. R. H. Morley, A. M. Thomas.

Per *Empress of China*, for Shanghai, Messrs. C. W. Longuet, H. S. J. Knight, A. P. Shevell, W. H. Dimond, L. L. Etzal, H. R. Williams, J. J. Collins, D. Stewart, D. McGregor, Capt. G. H. Drewes, Messrs. Wong Hop Sang, Koo Chih Foo, Chee Yu Chee, and Low Shui Cha; for Nagasaki, Mrs. and Miss Evatt, Mr. K. Ede; for Kobe, Mr. A. P. MacEwen, and Miss Staunton; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Dickinson, Dr. A. Rennie, Messrs. Hill, Hay, Wilkinson, R. R. Martin, J. Fhalman, and Ley Kum; for Vancouver, Mr. N. Rawlinson, Mrs. Ah Yuk; for New Westminster, Mrs. Ah Choy and children; for Seattle, Mr. W. H. Merritt; for San Francisco, Miss Embleton, Mr. K. B. Birdland; for Chicago, Miss Logan; for St. Louis, Mo., Mr. J. A. Thomas; for Toronto, Miss Colder, Miss A. P. Gordon; for Montreal, Mr. G. Millward, Capt. Pillett; for London, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Saunders, Major and Mrs. Close, Consul and Mrs. J. Streich, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Falconer, Miss E. G. Cartwright, Misses Brock (2), Miss Davis, Miss G. Eustace, Miss N. H. Bevan, Sir J. Carrington, Mrs. and Miss MacEwen, Miss Archdale, Miss Dobric, Mrs. and Miss Knight, Capt. D. Baird, Capt. B. K. Hanburg, Messrs. G. Bird, J. H. Furneaux, F. F. Catley, G. R. Pember, F. Salinger; for Liverpool, Mr. A. R. Smith and Mr. L. Harrison; for Paris, Major-General H. de C. C. de Athayde. From Shanghai for Kobe, Mrs. and Miss Tucker; for Vancouver, Mrs. F. Baker; for London, Miss E. F. Lake, Messrs. B. H. Watton, W. R. Monro, E. B. Elwin, E. Ziegler. From Nagasaki for Liverpool, Mr. E. Fresh. From Yokohama for London, Capt. Hewett and Mr. V. Flipo.

Per *Prinz Heinrich*, for Shanghai from Bremen, Mrs. Gromsen and 3 children, Miss M. Pick, Mr. E. Knippel; from Antwerp, Mr. P. Bakels, Mrs. A. Bender, Sister Ida Halbach; from Southampton, Mr. P. Fox Sharpe, Miss Tyler, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. S. Bilbrough, Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Lund, Mr. L. H. Gibb, Rev. and Mrs. Douglas and child, Mrs. Morsby and child, Misses J. and A. Morsby, Mrs. Barry, Misses E. and J. Barry, Messrs. F. and B. Barry, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Bridge, Mr. D. Macfarlane, Dr. Creasy Smith, Messrs. H. Spear, Geo. King and family, Messrs. Tyler, J. W. Craig, C. A. Bunting, Mrs. W. Gardner and infant, Miss Scott; from Genoa, Mrs. von Liliencron, Messrs. F. Huchting and V. Kohr, Mr. and Mrs. Gerecke, Mrs. A. Huss, Messrs. D. and O. Sissons, Mr. Schuffenhauer, Mr. and Mrs. Duckerts, Mr. and Mrs. Oyscough, Mr. and Mrs. Raffelt, Mr. W. de Macar, Rev. Enrico and colleague, Messrs. G. Thiel, F. Bender, G. A. G. Favilla, H. Knappe, Alfred Treyhoff, Mr. and Mrs. Simone and friends; from Naples, Messrs. A. V. Iazarneschew and G. Petis Bois; from Singapore, Messrs. Elta and A. Boyes; from Hongkong, Messrs. J. Driatel, C. Woods, F. Bornemann, J. Howard, J. H. Bowel, and G. S. Hodlev.

Per *Hohenzollern*, for Yokohama from Genoa, Mr. Julius Behrens, Mr. and Miss A. Michalitschke; from Southampton, Mrs. W. R. Bennett; from Colombo, Mr. S. C. Rudra, Mr. and Mrs. Magnus; from Hongkong, Miss O. Bohm, Messrs. F. de Wurth, Oderwal, L. R. Ellison, and Dr. R. Voswenckel. For Kobe from Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. Hudhamper. For Nagasaki from Genoa, Mr. Job. Kaiser; from Bremen, Mr. Erick Kuhl; from Southampton, Mr. Kubrig.

Per *Yuensang*, for Manila, Mr. Anton Michalitschke and daughter, Messrs. Rbt. Greuling, Wilhelm Thur, D. W. Kirkland, A. Heunisch, Mrs. J. C. Alario, 2 daughters and 1 girl, Mr. K. Matsumoto, Mr. Li Yang Yew (Chinese Consul) and staff, Mrs. Mary Bernstein, Miss Mamerta de la Cruz, Messrs. V. Abad, Pedro Himeas Soboly, G. W. Bennett, and Mrs. Frederick Palmer.

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